THE

SCOTS MAGAZINE;

OR

GENERAL REPOSITORY

OF

LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND POLITICS,

FOR THE YEAR M,DCCCII.

Ne quid falsi dicere audeat, ne quid veri non audeat.

VOL. LXIV.

OR VOL. FIRST OF THE THIRD SERIES.

EDINBURGH:

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1802.

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REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES,

OF THE YEAR 1802.

January.

A maniac, of the name of Patrick Runey Nugent, attempts to gain admiſſion at Buckingham Houſe.—Information is received of the Revolt of the Blacks in St Domingo; the moſt dreadful ravages and murders are committed by the inſurgents—The Naval Court Martial at Portſmouth commenced, for the Trial of ſeveral Seamen of the Temeraire, for mutiny in Bantry Bay, when under ſailing orders with Admiral Campbell, 12 were condemned to death and executed, one was ordered to receive 200 laſhes—Trial of five other Mutineers of the Temeraire; four were found guilty, and ſentenced to be hanged; and one in part guilty, and ordered to receive 200 laſhes—Six of the Mutineers executed at Spithead—Joſeph Wall, Eſq. formerly of Goree, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, for the murder of James Armſtrong, a private ſoldier under his command, in the year 1782, by ordering him to be flogged with ſuch ſeverity that he died; the trial laſted from nine in the morning till eleven at night, when the priſoner was found guilty, and ſentenced to be executed, but reſpited till the following Monday—Particulars arrive of the treacherous Murder of a number of Beys in Egypt, by order of the Porte—Governor Wall executed, after having been twice reſpited; the crowd gave three cheers, and otherwiſe behaved with a ferocity unlike Britons.

February.

The Paris papers bring the information of the firſt Conſul's Election to the ſituation of Preſident of the Italian Republic—Mr Abbot elected Speaker of the Houſe of Commons—Sir John Mitford appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland by the title of Baron Redeſdale—His Majeſty demands the aid of Parliament to pay off the arrears of the civil Liſt—Letters from New-York bring the firſt accounts of the arrival of the expedition from France in the Weſt Indies.

March.

His Grace the Duke of Bedford died—Mr Robſon, a member of Parliament, charges the Government with inability to pay a Bill of 16l. 10s.—Orders given for equipping our Fleets, and preparing for War, in conſequence of the delay in ſigning the Definitive Treaty—Advice is received that the Emperor Alexander had invited the Courts of Vienna, Berlin, London, Madrid, Naples, Dreſden, and Munich, to join him in endeavouring to obtain a ſuitable ſettlement for the remaining Princes of the Houſe of Bourbon—Accounts arrive of the Maſſacre of the Whites at Guadaloupe, and the burning of Cape Town—The Citizens of London aſſembled in common hall, and reſolved to petition Parliament for a Repeal of the Income Tax—The Definitive Treaty of Peace is ſigned at Amiens.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer gives notice of his intention to repeal the Income Tax.—The Houſe of Commons, in a committee of ſupply, grant a ſum to defray the arrears of the Civil Liſt.—Mr Manners Sutton's motion for the appointment of a ſelect committee, to examine into the claims of the Prince of Wales, reſpecting the revenues of the duchy of Cornwall, is negatived by a majority of 57.

April.

Lord Kenyon, Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench, died at Bath, in the 69th year of his age.—The Secretary at War brings forward his plan for the future organization of the Militia.—Sir Edward Law is created Baron Ellenborough, and appointed Chief Juſtice of the Court of King's Bench.—News arrives from St Domingo of Touſſaint being abandoned by numbers of his beſt troops.—The Sheriffs of London addreſs the Prince of Wales on the ſubject of their abſence from the Civic Feſtival on Eaſter Monday.—The Ratification of the Definitive Treaty, by the Courts of Madrid and the Hague, arrives in London.—The Gazette contains his Majeſty's Proclamation for Publiſhing the Peace, and for a Day of Thankſgiving to celebrate the ſame.—Celebration of the Peace throughout the metropolis. Splendid illuminations, particularly at M. Otto's, the French Ambaſſador. Two perſons are killed by the falling of an urn from the eaſt ſide of St Mary's church, in the Strand.

May.

The Secretary at War brings forward a plan for the Reduction of the Army.—The Paris papers bring the news of the firſt Conſul's re-election for ten years—Accounts arrive of the arreſt of Captain Mudge of the Conſtance frigate, and part of his crew, at Lifbon.—M. Otto receives a Courier from Paris with diſpatches, containing overtures for ſettling a Commercial Treaty with Great Britain. A Mr Colbert is appointed Commercial Commiſſioner.—Mr Pitt's Birth day celebrated with great ſplendour at Merchant Tailors Hall.

June.

Intelligence is received of an Inſurrection at the Iſland of Dominica.—Great preparations are made for the private meeting of the Emperor Alexander and the King of Pruſſia, at Memel.—General Andreoſſi is appointed Ambaſſador from the French Republic to his Britannic Majeſty, and M. Otto Miniſter Plenipotentiary to the United States.—Paris Journals officially announce the ſurrender of Touiſſaint and Diſſalines—The gazette announces the appointment of Lord Whitworth as Ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the French republic.—His Majeſty, in a moſt gracious ſpeech from the Throne, diſſolves the Parliament. Mr Garnerin aſcended in a Balloon from Ranelagh: In three quarters of an hour traverſed a ſpace

of fixty three miles, accompained by Captain Sowden; they alighted at a ſhort diſtance from Colcheſter.—The Gazette contains an official account of the King of Sardinia's reſignation of the crown to his Brother, the Duke of Aoſta.

July.

Accounts were received of freſh ſucceſſes gained by Paſſwan Oglou over the Turkiſh troops.—Alſo that the King of Pruſſia had ſent a Miniſter to the Batavian Republic: And that the Prince of Orange had renounced all pretentions to the ſame.—A dreadful accident happened at the docks in the Iſle of Dogs; a Dam, called the Coffer-dam, gave way, by which eight perſons who were at work in the excavation, were inſtantly killed by the water ruſhing upon them.—Letters from Turin ſtate, that the Firſt Conſul had annexed Piedmont to France.—Received accounts from Conſtantinople, of a war being carried on between Ruſſia and Perſia.—Received an account that the Dey of Algiers had threatened to declare war againſt all Europe.

August.

M. Garnerin, Mad. Garnerin, and a Mr Glaſsford, aſcended with a Balloon from Vauxhall Gardens, in the preſence of an immenſe concourſe of ſpectators—Received an account of the Conſervative Senate having paſſed a Decree for appointing Bonaparte Chief Conſul for Life.—A new Plan was drawn out for organiſing the French Republic, by which almoſt the whole power of the State was placed in the hands of the Firſt Conſul.—The French Moniteur, received this day, contained a violent charge againſt certain Engliſh Newſpapers, and againſt the Britiſh Government.—In conſequence of the angry note in the French official paper, charging Government with harbouring and encouraging the enemies of France, the Funds fell about 1½ per cent and a general rumour prevailed, that war would again break out between the two countries.—The Reports that France meditated the Partition of Turkey were officially contradicted.—Received alſo the account of a Treaty having been concluded between France and Ruſſia.—Great rejoicings took place at Paris upon the Proclamation of the *Organic Senatus Conſultum*.—Violent Outrages were committed by a large body of working ſhipwrights and caulkers of Deptford.—The Officers of Police of Paris entered the Coffee-houſes and Reading-rooms, where they ſeized every Engliſh Newſpaper they could find, and gave directions that they ſhould not receive any more of them.—Accounts were received, that the Prince of Orange had formally renounced the dignity of Sadtholder, and abandoned all claims to his territorial property in Holland.—The Weſt India docks, in the Iſle of Dogs, were opened, amidſt a vaſt aſſemblage of ſpectators; and a fine ſhip, called the Henry Addington, decorated with the colours of all the nations in the world, was admitted into the great baſon.

September.

Received accounts that the Patriots in Switzerland had commenced hoſtilities againſt the ſoi-diſant Helvetic Government.—Received the news of the delivery of Martinique to the French.—The Dey of Algiers received an officer, ſent by Bonaparte, to demand ſatisfaction for the inſults offered to France; and readily ſubmitted to all the demands made by the Firſt Conſul.—The Gazette announced that the Ottoman Porte had granted the ſame freedom to Engliſh veſſels to navigate in the Black Sea, as was allowed to the moſt favoured nations.—A dreadful fire happened at Liverpool, which deſtroyed warehouſes and property to the amount of near half a million.—Letters from Vienna mention the ſubmiſſion of Paſſwan Oglou, and of his having received a pardon from the Grand Seignior.—A ſuſpenſion of arms took place between the ſmall cantons and Helvetic Government.—The Emperor Alexander ordered the loſſes ſuſtained by Britiſh ſubjects, through the embargo laid on their ſhips by Paul, to be made good.—An Arrete of the French Government ordered that all Proprietors of Lands in St Domingo, who were then in Europe, ſhould immediately return thither, under pain of the lands being ſequeſtrated.—Accounts of freſh diſturbances in Switzerland were received.

October.

Accounts from Philadelphia and Baltimore ſtated the infectious fever ſtill continuing to rage there.—The Helvetic troops were defeated by the Patriots under the walls of Berne, from which place the Government retreated to Lauſanne.—A proclamation was publiſhed by Bonaparte to the Swiſs Cantons, in which he told them he was the Mediator who would ſettle all their differences.—Mr Moore, of the Secretary of State's Office, left town for the Continent on a ſecret miſſion.—Received accounts of ſucceſſes gained by the Confederate Troops in Switzerland.—The Diet of Schwitz, repreſenting the patriotic Cantons, ſent a manly and dignified anſwer to Bonaparte's proclamation.—William Codlin, George Eaſterby, and William M'Farlane, were tried at the Old Bailey, and capitally convicted of ſinking a veſſel at ſea, of which the firſt was Captain, and the two latter owners, with a view to defraud the underwriters.—The celebrated M. De Calonne died at Paris.

November.

Received accounts of the French troops having entered Switzerland.—General Andreoſſi, the new French Ambaſſador arrived in London.—Mr Steele of Catherine-ſtreet, Strand, was found barbarouſly murdered on Hounſlow Heath.—Received account that the Diet of Schwitz had diſſolved itſelf, after proteſting againſt the conduct of France.—The Firſt Conſul took poſſeſſion of the Duchy of Parma.—The New Parliament met, when Mr Abbot was again choſen Speaker of the Houſe of Commons.—General Andreoſſi was preſented at Court, and delivered his credentials to the King.—Colonel Deſpard and ſeveral other perſons, ſome of them Iriſh labourers, and ſome ſoldiers in the Guards, who had been taken up on the 15th, at a public houſe in Lambeth, were examined before the Privy Council on charges of High

Treaſon.—Lord Whitworth, Ambaſſador from this country to France, arrived at Paris.—His Majeſty went down to the Houſe of Peers, and made a moſt gracious ſpeech to both Houſes of Parliament. After which, ſome very intereſting debates took place, both in the Lords and Commons.—News arrived of very favourable accounts being received at Paris from St Domingo.—All the patriotic leaders in Switzerland were arreſted.—Captain Codlin, convicted of ſinking the Brig Adventure, off Brighton, was hung at Execution Dock, purſuant to his ſentence.—Johnſon the noted ſmuggler, made a moſt aſtonithing eſcape from the Fleet priſon.—Colonel Deſpard, and ſeveral of his aſſociates, were committed for trial, on a charge of Treaſon.

December.

1, The Houſe of Commons in a Committee of Supply, voted 50,000 Seamen for the enſuing year.—The Vote of 50,000 Seamen was ſtrongly oppoſed in the Houſe of Commons.—The Bey of Tunis ſent to congratulate Bonaparte on his election to the Conſulate for life.—Received an account that Count Stahrembreg, the Imperial Miniſter to our court, was ordered to quit Paris within 24 hours.—Received an account of an affray at Paris, in which ſeveral of the conſcripts were killed by the military.—Accounts were received of violent earthquakes having taken place in ſeveral parts of Turkey and Ruſſia.—The Miniſter made a moſt ſatisfactory ſtatement of the finances of the enſuing year to the Houſe of Commons, without laying on a ſingle new tax.—Received accounts of an earthquake having happened at Algiers.—Accounts from Conſtantinople ſtated, that the Mamelukes had defeated the Turkiſh troops in ſeveral parts of Egypt.—Accounts from the United States of America ſtated that all infectious diſtempers had ceaſed there.—Received an account that a detachment of Daniſh troops had taken poſſeſſion of a part of the territory of Lubeck.—Received an account of the French Colonel Sebaſtiani having viſited Alexandria, and of his intending to inſpect the different parts along the Levant.—Received accounts that the Floridas were to be given up to France by Spain.—Both Houſes of Parliament adjourned to the 3d of February.

ABSTRACT

OF THE POPULATION OF SCOTLAND,

Made under the Act of Parliament, in 1801.

COUNTIES.	Square Miles.	*Population.* 1801.	RENT. Valued Scots.	RENT. Real Sterling.
Aberdeen	1891	123,082	£235,665	£135,652
Argyleſhire	2922	71,856	191,605	165,800
Ayr	1036	84,306	149,595	112,752
Banff	751	35,807	79,200	43,490
Berwick	481	30,621	178,365	118,800
Bute	224	11,791	15,022	9000
Caithneſs	691	22,609	37,256	19,960
Clackmannan	47	10,858	26,482	14,200
Cromarty	25	3,052	10,544	4751
Dumbarton	1346	20,710	158,627	109,700
Dumfries	244	54,597	33,327	34,250
Edinburgh	366	112,954	191,054	151,500
Elgin	576	26,705	65,603	41,420
Fife	475	93,743	362,584	174,900
Forfar	929	99,127	171,636	122,000
Haddington	300	29,986	168,878	132,816
Inverneſs	4301	74,292	73,188	70,530
Kincardine	382	26,349	74,921	38,500
Kinroſs	78	6,725	20,112	12,710
Kirdcudbright	863	29,211	114,571	96,730
Lanark	871	146,699	162,118	127,000
Linlithgow	112	17,844	74,931	44,330
Nairn	151	8,257	15,162	8000
Orkney & Shetland	1601	46,824	56,551	18,500
Peebles	295	8,735	51,937	29,820
Perth	2373	126,366	339,818	230,900
Renfrew	246	78,056	68,076	63,950
Roſs	2930	52,291	77,393	40,960
Roxburgh	737	33,682	315,594	102,350
Selkirk	261	5,070	80,307	26,320
Stirling	703	50,825	108,518	86,720
Sutherland	1895	23,117	26,193	9754
Wigton	468	22,918	67,646	53,890

List of the Population of some of the Principal Towns.

Aberdeen	17,597	Dunfermline	9,980	Perth	14,878
Campbelton	7,093	Dundee	26,084	Greenock	17,458
Rothesay	5,231	Montroſe	7,974	Paiſley, &c.	31,179
Alloa	5,214	Dunbar	3,971	Port-Glaſgow	3,865
Dumbarton	2,541	Inverneſs	8,732	Falkirk	8,838
Dumfries	7,288	Lanark	4,692	Stirling	5,256
Edin. & Leith	82,560	Glaſgow	77,385		

THE

SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For JANUARY, 1802.

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And MURRAY & HIGHLY, Fleet Street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors of the Scots Magazine requeſt the continuation of the valuable correſpondence of Philo-Medicus, and regret that his communication on the Subject of Medical Graduation has been inevitably poſtponed this month.

The poetical communication of W. G. is received, and will appear in our next.

The communication of Armin Montgomery, on the Amuſements of Faſhionable Life, is received, and we will try to find room for it in our next; though we regret that his obſervations ſometimes extend to an injudicious length.

We regret that Edwin, which poſſeſſes ſome paſſages of conſiderable merit, is, on the whole, too incorrect for publication. We hope the ingenious author will, on another peruſal, perceive the neceſſity of reviſion.

Our limits have obliged us reluctantly to poſtpone the beautiful Ode ſigned Y.

The Chemical communication of R. T. is too incorrect for publication.

SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY K. B.

THE SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For JANUARY 1802.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY.

[WITH A HIGHLY-FINISHED PORTRAIT.]

How ſleep the brave who ſink to reſt,
By all their country's wiſhes bleſt!
When ſpring, with dewy fingers cold,
Returns to deck their hallowed mold,
She there ſhall dreſs a ſweeter ſod,
Than FANCY's feet have ever trod.
By fairy hands their knell is rung;
By forms unſeen their dirge is ſung;
There HONOUR comes, a pilgrim gray,
To bleſs the turf that wraps their clay;
And FREEDOM ſhall a while repair,
To dwell a weeping hermit there. COLLINS.

THE name of ABERCROMBY is now claſſed with thoſe illuſtrious warriors who in modern times have ariſen to rival the fame of antiquity; and his memory will be cheriſhed by the Scottiſh nation like that of their moſt renowned heroes. While he ſtill lives in the recollection of his friends, to whom his name is endeared by regret for his loſs, it is juſt that his contemporaries ſhould delineate his life and character, that future generations may not in vain inquire, Who was it that revived the martial fame of Britain? that conquered the invincible legions of France? that reſigned his life for victory on the field of Aboukir? The *field of Aboukir* is not a phraſe of trivial import or tranſitory reputation; it will always be mentioned by the warrior and the hero with feelings which the name of the ancient and diſſolute Canopus never excited in the breaſt of the voluptuary; and our countrymen who followed their gallant general in the paths of glory, will, after the lapſe of years, regard this battle as their moſt ſplendid atchievement.

THE hero of Aboukir, Sir Ralph Abercromby, was the ſon of George Abercromby of Tullibody, a gentleman of ancient and reſpectable family in Stirlingſhire, and of Anne Dundas, daughter of Mr Dundas of Manor. He was born in the year 1734. Like his brothers, according to the laudable cuſtom in Scotland, he was early deſtined for an active life, and he ſelected the army as the theatre of his future exertions. The firſt commiſſion he bore in the army, was

that of cornet in the third dragoon-guards, which he procured on May 23d 1756, and thus commenced a military life, which was to be celebrated for atchievements in Europe, Africa, and America. In this corps, where he acquired an intimate knowledge of the duties of the ſubaltern, and of thoſe minute details which contribute eminently to the ſucceſs of the moſt important movements of war, he roſe to the degree of lieutenant, and remained till April 24. 1762, when he obtained a troop in the third regiment of horſe. In this regiment he roſe, by ſucceſſive gradation, to the rank of major and lieutenant-colonel, the latter of which he obtained on the 19th of May 1773. The diſplay of military talent in a well-regulated ſtate depends on numerous circumſtances, independent of the poſſeſſion of martial genius; and a conſiderable number of years elapſed, before the future hero of Aboukir exhibited any remarkable preſages of that predominant reputation which he was afterwards to acquire. On November 3. 1781, he was appointed colonel of the 103d regiment, denominated the King's Iriſh Infantry, which had been lately raiſed; but, on the reduction of this regiment, at the American pacification in 1783, with the other officers belonging to it, he was placed on half-pay. In this ſituation he continued till 1787, when he was promoted to the rank of major-general, after which he commanded ſucceſſively the 69th and 6th regiments of foot, and the 7th regiment of dragoons, to the laſt of which he was appointed November 5. 1795. Soon after the commencement of the war between Britain and France, Sir Ralph Abercromby was employed on the continent; and, on the 25th of April 1793, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general. During the campaigns of 1793 and 1794, the firſt of which commenced ſo auſpiciouſly, and the ſecond terminated ſo unfortunately for the cauſe of the allies, his conduct was uniformly ſuch as to conciliate the eſteem and confidence of his ſoldiers, and to merit the higheſt approbation of his ſuperior officers. Theſe campaigns, which put to a ſevere teſt the military tactics of the moſt experienced commanders in Europe, and of the warriors who had attained the higheſt martial fame, impreſſed deeply on the minds of the whole army the idea of his ſkill in the various operations of attack and defence, and particularly of that cool determined valour, which, when united to prudence, conſtitutes the moſt important part of a military character. Of his commander, the Duke of York, he, on all occaſions, enjoyed the confidence and eſteem.

The French generals, in theſe campaigns, attempted to ſupply the want of diſcipline in their ſoldiers by exciting a bolder ſpirit of enthuſiaſm; and diſplayed uncommon ſkill in accommodating their military manœuvres to the characters of thoſe whom they commanded, and thoſe with whom they had to contend. Their efforts, aided by the want of confidence and union among the allies, were finally ſucceſsful, and the allied army began to retreat. In the action on the heights of Cateau, on April 16. 1794, Sir Ralph Abercromby commanded the advanced guard, and eminently ſignaliſed himſelf. On October 27. he was wounded at Nimeguen. The diſpatches of the Duke of York bear ample teſtimony to his military ſkill, and cool and prudent conduct, in the moſt hazardous exigencies of that campaign. A more painful duty ſtill remained, a duty from which it is incumbent on the brave never to ſhrink, though it requires a more painful exerciſe of ſenſibility than is compatible with the energy excited by a field of battle. In the diſaſtrous retreat of the Engliſh army from Holland in the winter of 1794, he conducted

ducted the Guards, and had the care of the ſick in the march from Deventer to Oldenſaal. This was a ſituation which required all the native energy of a mind fruitful in reſources, to prevent the depreſſion of the ſpirits of the men, fatigued by a long march through roads almoſt impervious, haraſſed inceſſantly by the attacks of a victorious enemy, and expoſed to all the inclemency of a ſevere ſeaſon, in a ſituation where it was impracticable to procure ſhelter. In this unfortunate ſituation, though the talents of the General were unable to ſtem the current of adverſe fortune, they were ſufficient to attract univerſal approbation, and to demonſtrate that his humanity was not inferior to his courage.

(To be continued).

THE DREAMER.---No. I.

A. You muſt not conclude, that whoever tells his dream, or ſometimes takes his direction from it, is therefore an idolater, or ſuperſtitious, or a cheater; for God doth often admoniſh men by dreams of what they ought to do: yet men muſt be wary in this caſe, that they truſt not dreams with the conduct of their lives, farther than by the law of their country is allowed;—otherwiſe I ſee no idolatry or ſuperſtition in following a dream.

B. Yes, one's own dream; but when another man ſhall dream, or ſay that he has dreamed, and require me to follow that, he muſt pardon me, if I aſk him by what authority, eſpecially if he look that I ſhould pay him for it.

HOBBES.

FROM the title which I have given to my lucubrations, it is poſſible the good-natured public may be diſpoſed to give me more credit for ſincerity than for prudence; for candour, than for the power of either amuſing or inſtructing them. Perhaps they may be partly in the right; they will not, however, deny, that ſincerity and candour are qualities which occur much more rarely in the great world, than either the ability to inſtruct, or the power to amuſe; and, if I do not poſitively aſſert my pretenſions to theſe powers, I ſhall be cautious in renouncing my claim to thoſe qualities which I may be allowed to poſſeſs.

Notwithſtanding the beautiful compoſitions in former periodical writers, which plainly owe their excellence to the admirable faculty of Dreaming, none of theſe writers has had the ſagacity to perceive the advantage which his lucubrations would have derived, from deſcribing his ſleeping, rather than his waking thoughts. It was this circumſtance, preſenting itſelf to my mind, in one of my reveries, which firſt induced me to conſider the ſubject in my drowſy way.

To propoſe my looſe reveries, with that dogmatical air which, in this enlightened age, paſſes ſo generally for the indication of truth, were extremely preſumptuous in a profeſſed dreamer like myſelf, if the practice were not ſanctioned by cuſtom and authority. I muſt, however, be permitted to ſay, with Hobbes, that I ſee neither *idolatry* nor *ſuperſtition* in following a dream; and if my readers happen to be as much ſatisfied with my dreams, as I myſelf, generally am I may ſafely ſay that I ſhall continue

to dream, in future, with increaſed pleaſure and ſatisfaction. On the head of preſumption, I confeſs, I have very little anxiety; for if my readers conſider for a moment, they muſt perceive that the difference between my ſpeculations and thoſe of others is, that mine are propoſed as dreams, and therefore can never deceive, while the ſpeculations of others are generally propoſed as realities, and with the greater confidence the leſs they are founded on fact. The form in which my ſpeculations ſhall be preſented to the public, ſhall be exactly that which Morpheus may happen to ſuggeſt; and conſequently it is equally probable that they may aſſume the ſlimſy diffuſion of an eſſay, the concentrated terſeneſs of an apologue, the vivacity of a glee, or the gravity of a ſermon. At the ſame time I cannot avoid thinking ſuch a degree of gravity in a dream, as is uſual in a ſermon, ſomething uncommon; for dreams have generally more vivacity, more activity and buſineſs, than ſermons; and on that account are ſometimes preferred to them, by men of active rambling genius; of which curious circumſtance any perſon may be convinced by attending one of our churches next Sunday.

I foreſee that it will be neceſſary, in the courſe of my lucubrations, to vindicate the laudable practice of dreaming, from the imputations of futility and abſurdity, which have been thrown upon it by ſome perſons of ſo little ſagacity, that they have never been able to diſcriminate their waking thoughts from their dreams. For my own part, I regard dreaming as a ſpecies of Second Sight, though infinitely more extenſive in its influence, and pleaſant in its operation, than that which has long been celebrated in Scotland, and which is ſo energetically deſcribed in the romantic poem of Glenfinlas.

The laſt dread curſe of angry heaven,
With ghaſtly ſights and ſounds of woe,
To daſh each glimpſe of joy was given,
The gift, the future ill to know.

No doubt the region of dreams has its dark woods, and its foreſts of enchantment, as well as its ſunny vales and green plains; but it is confidently aſſerted, by thoſe who are beſt acquainted with the ſubject, that thoſe terrors which frequently render perſons afraid of their own dreams, originate from ſome incorrigibly bad habits in the minds of the dreamers, and form no proper objection to that ſyſtem of dreaming which I propoſe to recommend. In ſome diſtricts of Scotland, perſons who had been once abſtracted by the fairies, were afterwards ſuppoſed to poſſeſs a peculiar ſpecies of viſion, which, without impairing their power of ſeeing natural objects, in their uſual proportion and form, made them acquainted with another claſs of objects too delicate to be perceived by the groſs organs of ordinary mortals. This idea coincides extremely with that which I have always entertained of dreaming; and I have been accuſtomed to refer this popular notion to the ſource of ſleeping, rather than of waking imaginations. Perſons endowed with this viſionary power, if they happened to dine with half a dozen of their friends, generally ſat down to table, with twice as many companions as any other perſon of the company, and who were inviſible to every perſon but the ſeer himſelf. In the ſame manner I ſometimes ſup with a party of ſelect friends, and before morning have the honour of drinking tea or coffee with Julius Cæſar, Hannibal, and ſome of the greateſt perſonages of antiquity. The mention of Hannibal leads me to recollect a late ſcene of this kind, in which the merit of Bonaparte was warmly debated by that illuſtrious general, and Charles

XII.

XII. of Sweden, over a newſpaper in the Turf Coffee-houſe, when they were completely baffled by the logic of the late Murad Bey, who, upon turning the page, vaniſhed in a flaſh of lightning at the account of the maſſacre of the Beys in Egypt. I only mention this circumſtance, to convey to my readers ſome faint idea of thoſe excurſive powers which are often called into exertion by the faculty of dreaming; powers which can in a moment aboliſh all the diſtinctions of time and place, and aſſemble in one ſpot, a group of perſons of every age and country. The exerciſe of this faculty has likewiſe been found ſo extremely pleaſant in numerous caſes, that there are many perſons ſtill claſſed among waking men who have actually been in a dreaming ſtate for ſeveral years. In order to prevent ſuch irregularities for the future, an order is juſt iſſued from the court of Morpheus, that ſuch equivocal characters ſhall be apprehended, and tried by a jury of the *ſeven ſleepers;* and that thoſe dreamers who ſhall be found guilty of having traitorouſly attempted to paſs for waking men ſhall be puniſhed with a conſtant *inſomnia* for the period of their natural lives; a puniſhment which, in the Region of Dreams, is reckoned equivalent to perpetual impriſonment. Of the proceedings in conſequence of this edict, I hope to be able to give my readers an account in my next number.

ARTEMIDORUS.

OBSERVATIONS ON DRAMATIC CHARACTERS,

APPLICABLE TO SCOTLAND.

THE delineation of character, in works of fancy, is an effort ſometimes of memory, and at others of imagination. In many inſtances the writer copies the features of ſome living object in nature, whoſe peculiar qualities are ſuitable to his purpoſe; in others he follows the impulſe of genius, and forms a character of his own creation, but probable and conſiſtent. If we examine the works of the beſt poets and novelliſts, we ſhall find the greater number of their characters to be of the former claſs; and indeed, it is from this circumſtance that we derive the principal pleaſure which they excite. Man being naturally an object of curioſity to man, we are delighted with finding that the obſervations of an author of genius correſpond with thoſe of our own experience, and that the general arrangement of human character which every man is accuſtomed to form, has been augmented with a new individual. In reviewing the works of the Engliſh dramatiſts ſince the days of Johnſon, we find many characters beautifully depicted from nature, by authors who poſſeſſed neither the abilities to imagine Caliban, nor the acuteneſs to delineate Falſtaff, and which will pleaſe the mind of every reader that is not corrupted by critical prejudice. In fact, not even the genius of Shakeſpeare can ſecure immortality to his writings, but by preſcription. He drew, with the pencil of a maſter, the different characters he obſerved in life. His comic perſonages were the growth of his age and acquaintance, but they ſpeak a language at preſent almoſt obſcured by time; they diſplay the manners of a period doubtful even to the antiquary. That cowardice, affectation, pride, and every human paſſion, whether good or bad, are eſſentially the ſame in every age, is not here a ſubject of diſpute; but that they are externally different at different pe-

riods, may be plainly perceived from the ſlighteſt obſervation. Characters accurately delineated, and calculated to pleaſe any particular people, muſt be drawn from their *own age*, and muſt ſpeak in their *own language*. If any perſon will conteſt this point, it is only neceſſary to appeal to a common audience, whether they can enter with greater facility into the characters, drawn by Shakeſpeare, or by Sheridan. Whatever be their anſwer, it is obvious that the numerous commentators on that celebrated author have ſhewn, by infinite labour, that the language and manners of Timon, Aguecheek, Don Andriano, Piſtol, and many other finely-delineated characters of that age, are no longer intelligible to the vulgar. All this is, in no reſpect, the fault of the author; but *nos noſtraque debemur morti* is a humbling motto to the pride of the greateſt abilities that ever were exerted.

The great ſource of comic character, which always approaches neareſt to real life, is the manners, follies, purſuits, and ſentiments of the preſent day. All characters that ſpeak the language of paſt ages, that poſſeſs manners unknown to the preſent times, that are ridiculous for antiquated and forgotten follies, loſe in a great meaſure the power of pleaſing, becauſe their prototypes are not found in common life, and are intelligible only to the ſcholar and the antiquary. We love the picture of a friend, becauſe it recalls to us his well-known features; we can enter with delight into ſcenes that preſent anew the objects that have amuſed and charmed us at an earlier period; but, however ingenious the execution, we look on the antiquated paintings of the age of Elizabeth and James, as we ſhould certainly do were we tranſported by the ebb of time into the ſtreets of this metropolis, a century or two backwards: we would not behold the face of a ſingle acquaintance, nor be able to diſcover the places of our moſt common reſort.

These obſervations have two different objects in view. The firſt is, to ſhew the abſurdity of a practice at preſent countenanced by ſeveral writers of great genius, I mean that of making comic and tragic characters ſpeak the language, and diſplay the manners, of the age of Shakeſpeare; a practice ſo unnatural, that they forfeit the power of pleaſing and originality, the very ends which they labour to attain. For a few of numberleſs inſtances to be found in an author of great merit *, take the following. A maſker in the tragedy of Count Baſil, act II. ſcene 4. ſpeaks in this manner:

Wilt thou do nothing for thy *lady's* ſake?
Yes, lovely ſhepherdeſs, on every tree
I'll carve her name, with true-love *garlands* bound,
Write *madrigals* upon her roſeate cheeks,
Odes to her eye, *'ſaith* every wart and mole
That ſpots her ſnowy ſkin, ſhall have its *ſonnet*,
I'll make *love-poſies* for her thimble's edge, &c.

A duke in the ſame ſcene ſays very ſtiffly:

This revelry, *methinks*, goes gayly on.

Mirando, a little after this, ſpeaks in the ſtyle, not of Cupid, but of old Latimer:

No, let me down, thy kiſſes are ſo rough,
So *furious* rough—ſhe *doth* not kiſs me ſo.

The ſalutations of the gentlemen are, 'Save you, ſir,—I *greet* you *noble* count: they talk of fighting to *the death*: of ſinging *ſoft ditties*:—and ſcrawling love-ſonnets:—the ladies ſwear by *'ſaith*,

* Miſs Joanna Baillie.

faith, in *faith*, *in footh*, and diſplay all the quaint manners and ſtiffneſs of the virgin queen. All this might be borne in tragic characters, that often derive their features from the hands of fancy: in comic characters it is quite inſufferable, as it looks juſt like a young lady at a ball dreſſed in a ſuit of her grandmother's. It ſhould therefore be conſidered by all authors of every deſcription, who deſire to pleaſe, and excel other imitators, that to copy nature and Shakeſpeare is not the ſame thing; and that every writer who longs for immortality muſt have recourſe to the varieties of character in his own age, and not to the works of any poet or writer whatſoever. The language, and natural colloquial dreſs of theſe varieties muſt be delineated, and their diſtinctions accurately traced. Human nature is fundamentally the ſame in all ages, but its leading faculties are, from age to age, differently employed. Vain men are vain of different objects in the courſe of half a century; a fine ſword pleaſed in the reign of James the Firſt, a fine wig in the days of his grandſons, a ſnuff-box in the days of the Spectator; and thus the coxcomb is ever varying his manners and appearance, though not his leading principle of action.

The object of theſe general obſervations is, to touch on a circumſtance relating to the delineation of character, in this country. It is obvious that the excluſion of our native dialect from every thing but farce, muſt entirely prevent the comic varieties of character in Scotland from ever appearing, on the ſtage even of its metropolis. For any comic writer to ſucceed in Scotland muſt be extremely difficult, unleſs he croſs the Tweed, and import the language and cuſtoms of another country, which, however proper for dramatic compoſition, are not the growth of Scotland. In the works of Burns, Ferguſſon, and Ramſay, many intereſting Scotiſh characters are depicted with the greateſt accuracy. At preſent, ſince the cuſtom of writing from nature has become unfaſhionable in the country, no comic productions have appeared for ſome time; the ſource of humour is dried up, becauſe no one cares to write any thing but in Engliſh. It is not here meant that Scotſmen ought to relinquiſh Engliſh compoſition, for the ſake of their own dialect; it is only ſuggeſted, that thoſe who have abilities for delineating popular character ſhould not be diſcouraged from copying what they view; and that the amiable ſimplicity of the *dramatis perſonæ* of the Gentle Shepherd ought to pleaſe even the moſt refined Scotſman, as much as the characters in any comedy whatſoever. Scotland will no doubt acquire, in proceſs of time, a ſimilarity of manners with England. At preſent the bulk of the people differ conſiderably in dialect and character; and ſince this is the caſe, it is ſurely hard to be debarred from delineating living manners, becauſe we dare not trace them in their native hue, without fear of neglect or offence. It is a ſacrifice rather of an exorbitant nature, to ſink the produce of our own ſoil for the manufacture of our neighbour's; and all this, when it is generally allowed that a Scots landſcape poſſeſſes as many wild beauties, as many flowers of patriotiſm, friendſhip, love, and other ſimilar ornaments, with as many incongruities, for contraſt, as any to be met with in Europe. M.

LIST OF DESIDERATA IN SCOTISH SONG.

THE Editors of the Scots Magazine having been favoured with the following liſt of *Deſiderata* in Scotiſh ſong, by that eminent and accurate antiquarian, J. Ritſon, Eſq. beg leave to call the attention of their countrymen

men particularly to this ſubject. They have the utmoſt reaſon to believe that many, perhaps the majority, of the ſongs here enumerated, are ſtill preſerved by tradition, and float in the occaſional recitation of the Scotiſh Lowlanders; at leaſt, it is abſolutely certain that many beautiful verſes, if not complete ſongs, have been preſerved in this manner. That theſe ſhould at leaſt be corrected and arranged, muſt be the ardent wiſh, not only of every Scotſman, but of every perſon who poſſeſſes a taſte for nature and ſimplicity. The hiſtory of Scotiſh ſong, though equally intereſting and curious, from the total neglect in which it remained for a very long period, has become a ſubject of very difficult diſcuſſion, and can only be illuſtrated by an appeal to facts. As the opportunities of illuſtration are conſtantly diminiſhing, the Editors of the Scots Magazine cannot reſiſt the temptation of availing themſelves of this occaſion, to invite the communications of every perſon who can repeat Scotiſh ſongs, or who may have an opportunity of tranſcribing the fleeting records of tradition. An opportunity loſt may never again occur; and, within theſe laſt twenty years, numerous opportunities of recovering beautiful monuments of Scotiſh ſong have certainly been loſt. At the ſame time, they cannot help ſuggeſting the propriety, or rather neceſſity, that there is for every perſon pledging his veracity for the accuracy of his communications; while they recollect the obloquy that the national character has incurred, from a few inſtances of literary impoſition, which the authors probably intended rather as experiments on the critical taſte of the times, than experimental deceptions of the underſtanding.

DESIDERATA.

Alack and well-a-day.
Allan water; or my love Annie's wond'rous bonnie.
An auld man an' a hand'ul o' ſiller.
An ſhe come near me.
An Middleton be walking.
An the kirk wad let me be.
An you meet a laſs that's gay.
Annie and Colin.
As I came in by Falkland fair.
As I ſtood on the pier of Leith.
Auld langſyne,
(And drink a cup of kindneſs,
For auld langſyne).
Be conſtant ſtill.
Becauſe I was a bonny lad.
Beſſie Bell and Mary Gray (original.)
Boatman.
Come ben and kiſs me, man.
Come kiſs with me, come clap with me.
Cutty-ſpoon and tree-laddle.
Dear Billy, wilt thou go to battle?
Donald, gird my cogie.
Duncan's complaint.
For our lang biding here.
For the love of Jean.
Four-and-twenty Highlandmen.
Fie upon Carnegie!
Had I the wate? ſhe bad me.
Hallow-e'en.
Hey Tammy Brandy.
Her anſwer it was mum.
Hey-how the lang ſaddle!
Hey the Lockhart-lee man!
Highland laddie (original).
Highland laſſie, lovely thing.
How can I be ſad on my wedding-day?
I am aſleep, do not waken me,
I canna win hame to Eppie, I trow.
I fix'd my fancy on her.
I have loſt my marrow.
I loo'd a bonny lady.
I'll gae nae mair to your town.
I'll gar ye be fain to follow me.
I'll love no more.
I'll never leave thee.
I'll never ſee him more.
I'll thro' the muir for a' that.
I wiſh my love were in a mire.
If you had been where I have been.
In her cap ſhe wore a feather.
I'ſe ne'er rue I lo'ed thee.
It's I would have my gown made.
Kate of Aberdeen (original).
Kilt thy coat, Maggy.
Lochaber no more (original)

Lye ſtill, goodman, and take another nap.
My ain kind deary O.
(An' tho' the night be ne'er ſae dark,
And I be wat and wearie O,
I'll hap thee with my petticoat,
My ain kind deary O).
My dear, come play me o'er again.
My love, alas! is dead and gone.
My wife ſhe dang me.
O! an I were married.
O! dear mother, what ſhall I do?
O! Bothwell bank, thou blumeſt fair.
O! Jean, I love thee.
O'er Bogie.
O'er the hills and far awa' (original).
One evening as I loſt my way.
Open the door to three.
Peggy, I muſt love thee (original).
Polwarth on the green.
Saw ye my Peggy?
Sour plums of Gallaſhiels.
Steer her up, and haud her gawn.
Stormont's ghoſt.
The alewife and her barrel.
The auld gaud aver.
The auld maid of Fife.
The barber and his baſon.
The bonny laſs of Aberdeen.
The bonnyeſt laſs in a' the warld.
The bonnyeſt laſs in our town.
The burſting ſigh.
The corbey and the pyett.
The Earl of Murray's bonny thing.
The gallant ſhoemaker.
The gleed Earl of Kelly.
The Gordons has the guiding on't.
The king of France he run a race.
The lady of the flowery field.
The man has got his mare again.
The milking pail.
The miniſter's wife has learnt a ſang.
The auld Stewarts back again.
The auld witch of Ochiltree.
The voice of my love.
The vows of endleſs love.
The widows ſhall have ſpouſes.
The winding of the ſtream.
The winter it is paſt.
The [old] wauking of the fauld.
There are few good fellows when Jamie's away.
There's three good fellows down in yon glen.
This Logan water is ſo deep.
Thro' the wood, laddie, (original).
Under the green-wood tree.
Up in the morning early.
Up the reel of Bogie.
Was ye at the bridal?
Wate you how the play began?
We'll a' to Kelſo go.
We're a' Mars men.
Well-a-day.
What have I done for want o'wit!
What the devil ails you?
When the king came o'er the water.
Where ſhall our goodman lye?
Widow, are ye wawking?
Will ye go to Sheriffmuir?
Will ye lend me your loom, laſs?
Willy's the lad for me.
Woe is me! what maun I do?
Woe's my heart that we ſhould ſunder (original).
Ye'll ay be welcome back again.
Ye took your packs upon your backs,
Ye wadna ſtay, ye ran away.

ORIGINAL LETTER OF KING CHARLES II.

From the Wodrow MSS. vol. xlix. fol.—Adv. Libr.

St Germains, Aug. the 3d. 1652.

I AM promiſed this letter ſhall come ſafe to your hands, and therefore I am willing that you ſhould know from myſelf that I am ſtill alive, and the ſame man I was when I was amongſt you. I am very much troubled for what you ſuffer, and am uſing all the endeavours I can to free you; and before many months I hope you will ſee I am not idle. In the mean time, I cannot but let you know, that I am in greater ſtraights and neceſſitys then you can eaſily apprehend, and am

am thereby compelled to leave many things undone which would be of advantage to me and you. I could heartily wiſh, therefore, that by your intreſt and negotiation with thoſe you dare truſt, and who you know wiſh me well, ſome way might be thought of to aſſiſt me with money, which would be a very ſeaſonable obligation, and could never be forgotten by me. I need ſay no more to you, but that I ſhall be glad to receive any advice or advertiſment from you that you think neceſſary for me; and ſhall always remain,

Your very loving friend,

CHARLES R.

To Mr John Knox, afterwards miniſter of the Goſpel at North Leith. It bears to have been collated with the original in the king's own hand, by R. Wodrow.

ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM THE EARL OF LAUDERDALE TO MR ROBERT BAILLY.

I.

Reverend and worthie Freind,

THE ſufferings which it hath pleaſed God to call me to this long time paſt, having diſabled me from doing any ſervice to my friends, I have forborne to give them the unneceſſarie trouble of letters. Yet ſeeing I am informed you do often remember me, I could not but returne you my acknowledgments for the continuation of your kindenes, and to intreat the help of your prayers, that the Lord wold ſanctifie more and more this condition unto me, and afford me more and more teſtimonies, how good it is for me that I have been afflicted. All I ſhall tell you is, that I have a greater meaſure of health than I could have expected in this cours, ſo different from the life I formerly led. Althogh in that I find great prejudice by my long reſtraint, yet it pleaſes God to give me ſome meaſure of patience and of contentednes under the rod, more than you wold have looked for, who knew my former temper. I will not ſay any thing of publick concern, which I doe not at all medle with; all I ſhall deſire of you is, that you wold remember me to all thoſe you know to be my freinds, and to my ſome time fellow-priſoners of your own coate, when you ſee any of them. Be pleaſed to continue your kindneſs to, and your prayers for,

Your moſt affectionat freind,

LAUDERDAILL.

To my reverend and worthie Freind, Mr Robert Bailly, Profeſſor of Divinity at Glaſgow.

LETTER II.

Reverend and worthie Freind,

To convince you once more that you was too credulous in beleeving that I was dealing for Mr Gileſpie, receave the encloſed paper, which indeed is all that I have done in favors of Mr Patrick. But ſuch reports are now no ſtrangers to me. Every week I find by letters from Edr. that I am reported there to be the great agent of my Lo. Argyll, a calumnie as fals as the former; but I am ſo hardend with twentie ſorts of lyes which I heare are vented of me there, that they make little impreſſion on me. By God's grace I ſhall ſtudy to ſerv my gratious maſter and my countrey faithfully, let idle men talke, and others beleev what they pleaſe, it ſhall little trouble me. This paper ſhould have comd long agoe if I had ſooner gotten a copie of a preſentation. His Majtie gratiouſly promiſed it at his firſt coming, and readily ſigned it the other day. So to him you owe all the thankes. I can only ſay for myſelf, that I ſhall ever be ready to witnes to you that I forget not old freindſhip, and that I am, in the old manner,——Sir,

Your moſt affectionate freind to ſerv you, LAUDERDAILL.

Whitehall,
24. *Jan.* 1661.

For the Scots Magazine.

A VIEW OF GEOLOGICAL THEORIES.

IF a perſon, who had neither obſerved the ſurface of our globe himſelf, nor attended to the obſervations of others, ſhould attempt, from general principles, founded on abſtract reaſoning, to deſcribe and delineate the ſeas, continents, iſlands, promontories, bays, rivers, cities, mountains, &c. of the whole earth; ſuch a ſyſtem of geography would not only be altogether erroneous, but even ridiculouſly abſurd. No leſs erroneous and abſurd are moſt of the geological theories which have been preſented to the world; and their abſurdity proceeds from the very ſame cauſe. The framers of them, inſtead of collecting and aſcertaining facts, and from theſe deducing only ſuch concluſions as the facts warranted, have in general begun with arbitrarily aſſuming general principles, and from theſe have, as arbitrarily, explained the phenomena. Thus, one geologiſt lays it down, as the fundamental principle of his theory, "that all terrene ſubſtances are diſpoſed in *beds or ſtrata* of various natures, lying *horizontally* over each other, ſomewhat like the coats of an onion; and, that theſe ſtrata lie under each other in the order of their ſpecific gravity." If the author had been an inhabitant of the moon, he would have been barely pardonable for advancing ſuch a propoſition. It is abſolutely aſtoniſhing, that any man ſhould have attempted a theory of the earth, who was ignorant that immenſe maſſes of it are not ſtratified at all; that of the ſtrata a very great number are not horizontal but nearly vertical; and that layers of ſtone are frequently found over the lighteſt ſoils, and the ſofteſt earth under the hardeſt bodies. Somewhat ſimilar to this theory of Dr Woodward, are thoſe of Burnet and Whiſton. Whiſton ſuppoſes the earth to have been originally a comet; and that when the Creator placed it as a planet in the ſolar ſyſtem, it conſiſted of a ſolid burning globe of more than 2000 leagues diameter ſurrounded by a chaos ſimilar to that deſcribed by the poets. According to Burnet again, the chaotic was the original ſtate of our globe. As to the nature of this chaos, they both ſuppoſe it to have been a *rudis indigeſtaque moles*, compoſed of various ſubſtances, differing both in denſity and figure. Of theſe, according to thoſe authors, the heavieſt ſunk to the bottom, and after them, the other ſubſtances in the order of their ſpecific gravity. Thus they hold the earth to be compoſed of concentric ſtrata, each of which is ſpecifically heavier than that immediately above it. In the preſent ſtate of mineralogical knowledge, it ſeems quite unneceſſary to give a more particular account of the fanciful and crude conceptions of theſe theoriſts, or to enter into a particular examination of their tenets. The exiſtence of a chaos never can be proved: we have preciſely the ſame evidence of it, that we have of the generation of the gods; of their battles in the Trojan war; or of Jupiter's brain being delivered of Minerva by a blow of Vulcan's axe. Thoſe perſons deſerve the ſevereſt reprehenſion who have wreſted the ſacred account of a ſublime myſtery of our religion into a conformity with an abſurd fable of the heathen poets. Beſides, every perſon who is in the leaſt acquainted with the ſtructure and poſition of the ſtratified and unſtratified matters of our

globe, muſt be ſenſible that the hypotheſis of a chaos is in almoſt every particular repugnant to the phenomena; the explanation it affords of them is quite analogous to the explanations which the ancient phyſicians gave of diſeaſes, and the old chemiſts of the elements of bodies; explanations which are now mentioned only to be laughed at

The theory of Buffon is extremely ingenious, and in many points juſt: he proves incontrovertibly, that the preſent land is no more than the ruins of a land, and that the dry land which we now inhabit, was at ſome former period covered for a ſucceſſion of ages by the waters of the ſea. It is well known that ſhells, ſkeletons of fiſhes, marine plants,&c. are often found at immenſe depths in the bowels of the earth, and incloſed in the heart of rocks, upon the tops of the higheſt mountains, even at the greateſt diſtances from the ſea. In theſe ſituations, they are not only incloſed in rocks of marble and limeſtone, as well as in earths and clays; but are actually incorporated, intimately and completely filled with the very ſubſtances in which they are incloſed. It is impoſſible, as Buffon very juſtly obſerves, that theſe effects could be owing to the univerſal deluge: for ſince the relics of marine productions are found in marbles, limeſtones, chalks, marles, clays, ſand; in ſhort, in almoſt all ſtrata, and in all ſituations, even in the heart of mountains; we muſt ſuppoſe theſe mountains and marbles to have been all formed at the very inſtant when the deluge took place; and conſequently, that before this grand revolution, there was neither mountains of ſtratified matter, nor marbles, nor clays; and that during the few days the deluge laſted, the waters had overturned and diſſolved almoſt the whole ſurface of the earth to the greateſt depths; ſuppoſitions which are altogether inadmiſſible. There cannot be a doubt that the horizontal ſtrata of ſand and gravel, which are every where met with, were gradually formed by depoſition from the waters of the ſea, in which they had previouſly been for a conſiderable time agitated: for, beſides containing the exuviæ of marine productions, they are altogether ſimilar to thoſe beds of ſand and gravel which we ſee the ſea every day forming; and ſand and gravel are evidently formed by attrition in water. The ſtrata of coal, teſtaceous limeſtone, and marle do alſo unequivocally proclaim their origin. That theſe ſtrata were formed gradually, and were not the effect of any ſudden revolution, is evident from this, that we frequently find ſtrata compoſed of heavy materials placed above light ones, which could not have happened, if according to ſome authors, the whole had been blended and diſſolved by the deluge, and afterwards precipitated. Buffon maintains, that all ſtrata whatſoever are horizontal or nearly ſo; and that they have all been depoſited by the ſea, in the ſame poſition in which they at preſent exiſt: but we know now, that many ſtrata have a vertical or nearly vertical poſition, and how theſe ſtrata could be depoſited by water in that ſituation it is altogether impoſſible to conceive.

Buffon next attempts to ſhew how mountains may be formed at the bottom of the ſea by the tides, winds, and other cauſes of motion in the waters: but in this he fails completely; for, from his own mode of reaſoning, it is perfectly clear, that not even mountains of ſand and gravel could be formed in the midſt of the ſea, but that ſuch mountains, if they did there exiſt, would be gradually demoliſhed by the agitation of the water: and if mountains of ſand and gravel could not be ſo formed, much leſs could thoſe mountains in which the ſtrata

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are penetrated in all directions, and ſurrounded on all ſides by immenſe ſolid maſſes of granite or whinſtone.

Having proved that the land which we now inhabit was formerly the bottom of an ocean, Buffon proceeds to anſwer the important queſtion, How has it happened, that this land is now exalted to ſuch a height above the waters, and completely ſeparated from them? This effect he aſcribes partly to the conſtant and uniform motion of the ocean from eaſt to weſt, whereby he ſuppoſes, that while it is conſtantly wearing away the land on the weſt, it is as conſtantly retreating and leaving dry land on the eaſt. The other cauſe to which he attributes the retreat of the ſea from the land, is the ſudden failure or ſinking of certain ſubterraneous caverns, into which, therefore, the ſea would ruſh from all quarters, leaving dry what had been before the moſt ſhallow parts of it. The waters of the polar regions, he ſays, had beſides theſe a peculiar cauſe for retiring in part from the land there, which was covered by them in the original ſtate of the earth, when according to him it was of a ſpherical figure; the centrifugal force of the earth revolving round its axis, and the attraction of the ſun and moon, operating moſt ſtrongly at the equator, cauſed the waters to leave the polar, and accumulate in the equatorial regions. This explanation of Buffon, ingenious though it be, cannot be admitted; for, in the firſt place, the motion of the ocean from eaſt to weſt, if not abſolutely falſe, is at leaſt extremely doubtful; the ſinking of ſubterraneous caverns, though not improbable in itſelf, is quite hypothetical, nor can any ſubterraneous caverns be ſuppoſed capable of containing all the water which according to Buffon's principles muſt have flowed into them; and we have as little reaſon to preſume, that the earth was originally ſpherical, as that it originally deſcribed round the ſun an orbit different from that which it deſcribes at preſent.

Thus far our author's theory poſſeſſes ſome degree of plauſibility; but when he intends to explain the original formation of the earth, when he tells us that it, as well as the other planets, were ſtruck off from the body of the ſun by a mighty blow of a comet, his ſpeculations ceaſe to merit our attention, and are unworthy not only of belief, but even of a ſerious examination. It is a principle, which is, or at leaſt ought to be univerſally admitted, that no theory deſerves ſo much as to be examined, unleſs the principles upon which it is founded can be aſcertained as facts; now we have no data to prove that the earth ever formed a part of the ſun, or was detached from it by the ſtroke of a comet. It is worthy of obſervation, however, that according to Buffon, ſtones owe their chryſtalline texture not to aqueous ſolution, but to igneous fuſion; in which opinion he coincides with the Volcaniſts or Plutoniſts.

We ſhall next conſider the theory of the Neptuniſts. The fundamental principle of this theory is, that all the ſolid matters of our globe were originally in a ſtate of chemical ſolution in water, from which ſolution they have been ſince precipitated. It might be expected that I ſhould now ſtate and examine the arguments and facts by which the Neptuniſts have attempted to prove the aqueous ſolution of all ſolid bodies, in order to determine whether it can be aſcertained as a fact, and that I ſhould then deſcribe particularly the circumſtances under which they ſuppoſe the precipitation to have taken place, that we may determine whether theſe circumſtan-

ces of the ſuppoſed precipitation afford a full and ſatisfactory explanation of the phenomena. Unfortunately for the Neptuniſts, however, they can bring no direct proof that the land ever was diſſolved in the water. Nor can they ſhew that earth precipitated from water would form land at all ſimilar in ſtructure and arrangement to that which we ſee exiſts. It is in the higheſt degree improbable, that all the land ſhould at one time have been diſſolved in the ocean, which we know can ſcarcely at preſent diſſolve a ſingle particle of that matter, of which the greateſt part of the land is compoſed. But it is needleſs to adduce arguments againſt a theory, which, (according to Lord Bacon's great rule, of which no ſound philoſopher has ever yet diſputed the juſtneſs,) is unworthy of a ſerious examination. Whoever wiſhes to ſee ſtronger evidence of its abſurdity, has only to conſider the account of it, which has lately been publiſhed by its great champion Dr Kirwan.

The only theory of the earth conſtructed upon the true principles of philoſophical inveſtigation is that of Dr Hutton; though it muſt be confeſſed, that even he has not always ſtrictly adhered to them. He was indefatigable in collecting facts, and has made great additions to the ſtock of true geological knowledge, but he has ſometimes drawn from theſe facts concluſions which they did not abſolutely warrant. He acquieſced in the concluſion which Buffon had in a manner demonſtrated; that the preſent land is compoſed of the *debris* of a former land; and that at ſome former period it had all been depoſited by water at the bottom of the ocean. When firſt depoſited, it would evidently be, as Hutton ſuppoſes, in the form of looſe ſand and gravel, lying in horizontal beds, and interſperſed more or leſs with the *debris* of animal and vegetable ſubſtances, of metallic matters, and of the other ſubſtances of which the former land was formed. Here, all theſe materials were expoſed to fire, acting at great depths below the bottom of the ſea, and with various degrees of intenſity. Thoſe parts which were leaſt acted upon by heat, retained their form: hence thoſe looſe horizontal ſtrata of ſand and gravel which are every where to be met with, and which are evidently quite ſimilar to thoſe ſtrata which we ſee the ſea every day forming. Other parts being more expoſed to the heat, were partially fuſed; or, to ſpeak more preciſely, had their ſurfaces ſoftened and agglutinated. Hence the ſtrata of different degrees of induration and compactneſs.* All ſtrata may properly be arranged under two heads; thoſe that are nearly horizontal, and thoſe that are either nearly vertical, or bent with abrupt convolutions. To the firſt claſs belong ſandſtone, coal, teſtaceous limeſtone, and ſtone marle. Theſe according to Hutton, have been ſimply indurated, without being far removed from their place. The vertical ſtrata are more cloſely compacted than the former; and, according to Hutton, have firſt undergone the action of greater ſubterraneous heat, and then have been raiſed into their preſent poſition by the efforts of unſtratified matters in fuſion, riſing from below againſt them with great force. The convolutions of the vertical ſtrata, have been formed by a force acting laterally on the ſtrata, when in a ſoft and

* All ſtrata are compoſed of heterogeneous fragments, bound together ſometimes by a cement, ſometimes without any. All unſtratified ſubſtances, on the contrary, are homogeneous, and conſiſt either entirely of chryſtals, or of a homogeneous maſs, through which chryſtals ſhoot with more or leſs regularity.

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ductile ſtate. Thoſe parts to which a ſtill more violent heat was applied, were completely melted; and in this ſtate, by the efforts of the ſubterraneous fire were forced thro' the ſuperincumbent ſtrata, which penetrated in all directions, forming veins and dykes; and at laſt either reached the ſurface and ſo formed lava, or, cooling ſlowly before reaching it, and under the preſſure of the incumbent ſtrata, formed granite, porphyry, or whinſtone, according as the velocity of cooling was greater or leſs. The ſlower the cooling, the larger and more regular are the cryſtals of which theſe ſubſtances are compoſed. Thus, the different ſubſtances of which the land is formed, having received the arrangement, and aſſumed the appearance and ſtructure which they at preſent poſſeſs at the bottom of the ſea, were elevated by the efforts of the ſame ſubterraneous fire, to a greater height than part of the then land; in conſequence of which, the ſea left them, and overflowed part of the ancient land. Thus, the preſent iſlands and continents were formed, probably at different times. They in their turn are gradually wearing away, and at this moment the rudiments of a new land are depoſited, from their ruins, at the bottom of the ocean. Theſe rudiments being conſolidated by ſubterraneous fire, will, at ſome future period, be raiſed up by the ſame cauſe; and, the preſent land, having againſt that time, ſuffered much by attrition, will again be covered by the waters. Thus old lands are conſequently, though inſenſibly, wearing away, and new lands conſtantly forming; and, it is impoſſible to ſay, how often this proceſs has been, or will be, repeated; ſo that, ſays our author, there is no trace of a beginning, and no proſpect of an end.

Though ſome of theſe laſt-mentioned concluſions are not warranted by the facts, and have brought much obloquy upon the whole theory; yet the fundamental principles of it are probably not far from the truth. That ſubterraneous fire exiſts, and is capable of producing the effects aſcribed to it, volcanoes and earthquakes ſhow; and the effects to be expected from that cauſe, tally very exactly with the phenomena. The account which he gives of the formation of the different kinds of ſtrata is very plauſible, and that the unſtratified matters have, for the moſt part, come to their preſent poſition, in a fluid ſtate, and after the adjoining ſtrata were formed and conſolidated, is an idea ſupported by very ſtrong facts. The fluidity of theſe ſubſtances can be aſcribed to no cauſe, with the ſhadow of plauſibility, but to the force of fire. That the preſent land, therefore, is formed of the *debris* of a former land, carried into the ocean and depoſited in the form of beds of ſand and gravel, intermixed with the other ſpoils of that former land; that theſe beds have been conſolidated, in part indeed by water, but chiefly by heat; that the vertical ſtrata, in particular, have been brought into their preſent poſition by the action of fire from below; and that moſt, if not all, of the unſtratified matters have been fuſed by fire, and brought into their preſent poſition, after the depoſition and conſolidation of the neighbouring ſtrata; ſeem not deſtitute of the evidence of facts. To all which it may be added, (though that point has always appeared to me more problematical,) that the land, thus formed, has been elevated *en maſſe* by the efforts of the ſame powerful cauſe.

ARATUS.

For

ACCOUNT of the late DUKE GORDON, M. A.

INCLUDING

ANECDOTES of the UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH.

Duke Gordon, M. A. the late well known ſub-librarian of the Univerſity of Edinburgh, was a man of a ſingular character. The obſcurity of his parentage, as that of many others who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in life, far from caſting any reproach on him, ſerved, on the contrary, to enhance the merit of his own exertions. He was the ſon of William Gordon, weaver in Potterrow of Edinburgh, and born there on the 20th of May 1739. There is a tradition that William gave his ſon the chriſtian name of Duke, in commemoration of ſome attention which his own father, while in the King's ſervice, and at a period when clanſhip was ſtill in high repute, had once met with from the Duke of Gordon; a whimſical and ill judged diſtinction, for which his ſon, when he grew up, never ſeemed to be grateful; and accordingly in writing this part of his name, he uſually ſet down no more of it than the initial.

An ambition of a different ſort, with which the father was actuated, deſerves greater praiſe. He felt a deſire to beſtow upon his ſon a learned education; and by great induſtry and economy, he was enabled to accompliſh this object. Having got him inſtructed in the reading of Engliſh and in writing, he was adviſed to remove him to a private Latin ſchool, kept in the Cowgate by Mr Andrew Waddel, then a teacher of conſiderable reputation, but now known only as the tranſlator of Buchanan's paraphraſe of the Pſalms. Here our young ſcholar applied with ſuch diligence and ſucceſs, that he was generally found at the head of his claſs: and, at the annual examination of the ſchool, he had the good fortune to be approved of by the celebrated Mr Thomas Ruddiman, who honoured Waddel with his countenance and preſence on thoſe occaſions. At this ſchool young Gordon profited ſo much, that in a few years he was deemed qualified for entering the univerſity, where we find him matriculated as a ſtudent of Greek, under Profeſſor Robert Hunter, the 13th of March 1753.

In the Scotiſh Univerſities, all that is deemed neceſſary as a preparation for academical inſtruction, is a previous courſe of Latin for four, five, or, at moſt, ſix years, either at a grammar ſchool, or under a ſufficient private teacher; during which time, if a young man has either in reality made remarkable proficiency, or is ſuppoſed to have done ſo, he is ſometimes adviſed, on entering to the Univerſity to paſs over the Latin, or, as it is commonly called, the Humanity claſs, and to proceed immediately to the Greek. But this is chiefly the caſe with thoſe whoſe circumſtances are ſo narrow as to render it an object for them to ſave as much time and expence as poſſible. Unleſs from a neceſſity of this kind, the advantages to be derived from attending a Profeſſor of Humanity ought never to be neglected; as it is to be ſuppoſed, that the inſtructions of ſuch a teacher, will not only greatly promote any previous knowledge of the Latin tongue, which a young man may have received at a grammar ſchool or elſewhere, but will give him a more profound and accurate knowledge of grammar, Roman antiquities, and Roman learning; and initiate him, at an early period, into the principles of taſte

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and of polite literature in general. Even the reading of the Latin poets with emphaſis, propriety and gracefulneſs, from an academical chair, and commenting upon them with feeling and with taſte, never fail to captivate the ingenuous youth, and to make ſuch an impreſſion upon their minds, as, at no period of their future life, is ever in any of them completely effaced; but which to many proves, ever after, a ſource of exquiſite enjoyment.

Besides the public Humanity claſs, which uſed to meet ſeveral hours in the day, the Profeſſor had another, which was called his private claſs, and, which aſſembling only one hour daily, was calculated for thoſe who might wiſh ſtill to proſecute the Latin along with their other ſtudies; it was particularly calculated for the ſtudents of Greek, who had attended the public Humanity claſs the preceding year, or for thoſe whoſe circumſtances had obliged them to commence their academical courſe in the public Greek claſs. Of this laſt deſcription was young Gordon; and while he learned the elements of Greek under Profeſſor Hunter, he was improving himſelf in Latin, and in the knowledge of Roman antiquities, in the private claſs of Profeſſor George Stuart.

The Greek profeſſor, too, uſed to ſpend about ſix weeks at the commencement of his public courſe in reading Latin with his ſtudents, previous to their entering upon the elements of the Greek. The books which Profeſſor Hunter generally choſe, for this purpoſe, were Livy's Roman Hiſtory, and Lucan's Pharſalia: and thus Mr Gordon had the benefit of obſerving this learned inſtructor's method of teaching Latin as well as Greek.

In the public Greek claſs, the plan of education in Scotland, obliges the Profeſſor to teach the mere elements of the language; as very few have any knowledge of Greek previous to their entering the Univerſity. But Mr Hunter alſo had a private claſs for thoſe who wiſhed to proſecute that knowledge during the time of their philoſophical ſtudies; and which enabled them, in addition to what they had learned of the Teſtament, of Æſop's Fables, of Lucian's Dialogues, and of Homer's Iliad, in the public courſe, to obtain ſome acquaintance alſo with the Odyſſey, with one or two of the Greek Tragedies, and with ſome paſſages from Xenophon or Herodian. Of theſe two contemporary Profeſſors, it was remarked, that the Latiniſt had a more bold, vigorous, and ſtriking way of communication; but that the Greek Profeſſor, with a familiar and leſs dignified manner, diſcovered a much more accurate and profound ſkill, even of Latin grammar, and of all the niceties of that language. The former might have been characteriſed in the words which Scaliger applied to Juvenal, *Ardet, inſtat, jugulat*; the manner of the latter rather reſembled that of Neſtor,

Τῷ καὶ ἀπὸ γλώσσης μέλιτος γλυκίων ῥέεν αὐδή.

But though the gentle and familiar manner of the latter rendered him a great favourite with the ſtudents, it muſt be owned, that the bold and commanding tone of the former, made a more laſting impreſſion on his hearers. Many of theſe, who ſurvive, will ſtill remember with what congenial enthuſiaſm they have heard him pronounce the verſes of Horace, of Virgil, and of Juvenal; and with what powerful effect he conveyed to them a knowledge of Roman antiquities, in commenting upon Livy or Suetonius.

Such were the Profeſſors under whom Duke Gordon ſtudied the Latin and Greek languages. At the

the Greek claſs he particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf; for as he was poſſeſſed of great induſtry, and of a tenacious memory, he acquired and retained the principles of the Greek more ſucceſsfully than moſt of his fellow ſtudents; and as he had been well grounded in the Latin proſody, and the knowledge of the quantity of ſyllables, by Mr Waddel, he was a great admirer of Profeſſor Hunter's attention to thoſe particulars, and indeed of his great accuracy as a teacher in every reſpect.

Men of letters, in Scotland, have of late been reproached with want of attention to the proper quantity in Latin and Greek words; and, it muſt be owned, not without reaſon; although the reproach is often expreſſed too indiſcriminately; and by none more than by ſome of their own countrymen, who being themſelves void of this abſolutely neceſſary ingredient in the compoſition of an accompliſhed claſſical ſcholar, would wiſh to have it believed that others are as ignorant as themſelves. It is well known, that there was a time when Latin poetry flouriſhed, and was underſtood in Scotland to as great an extent, as in any other European nation. What ſcholar has not heard of George Buchanan, Andrew Melvin, Robert Boyd, Andrew Ramſay, and of the Delitiæ poetarum Scotorum? of which Dr Johnſon has been liberal enough to confeſs, that the Latin poetry there contained would have done honour to any nation; and Dr Parr, with ſtill greater liberality, and what many may think partiality to the Scots, at leaſt in as far as the Greek is concerned, aſcribes to them, at one period, ſuperior excellence in claſſic learning in general. It is certain, that from the time of Buchanan, who died in 1582, till the latter period of the reign of Charles I. both Latin proſe and poetry were cultivated in Scotland with the greateſt ſucceſs. Almoſt all the profeſſors in the univerſities, and many other ſcholars, not only ſpoke Latin fluently, but wrote verſes in Latin, and ſometimes in Greek: nor do thoſe contained in *The Muſe's welcome to king James*, in 1617, and thoſe in ΕΙΣΟΔΙΑ *Muſarum Edinenſium in Caroli regis ingreſſu in Scotiam*, in 1663, yield in any reſpect to ſimilar productions in any other country. From that time polite literature in Scotland, and particularly the making of Latin verſes, very rapidly declined. This was owing entirely to the agitated ſtate of the nation; and not to any averſion which either party had to the cultivation of learning; for, both after the Reſtoration and after the Revolution, while the nation enjoyed any repoſe, the former elegant ſtudies were reſumed; even Latin verſes were written, though not in ſo great numbers. The Union, and after that the rebellion in 1715, produced new ſubjects of diſcuſſion, which engaged the attention of men. After the ſecond rebellion in 1745, while a taſte for philoſophy and Engliſh compoſition began to prevail, claſſical learning was not neglected; and many ſcholars, though they did not practiſe the writing of Latin verſes, paid due attention to the quantity of ſyllables, and to the correct reading of Latin poetry. This is ſtill the caſe; though, perhaps, it is to be regretted that the writing of Latin verſes is now ſo little attended to; for moſt certainly that exerciſe, practiſed to a certain extent, at an early period of life, inures the mind to habits both of elegance and accuracy.

Though Mr Gordon never attempted the compoſition of Latin verſe, he had a very accurate knowledge of the quantity of ſyllables, and could never hear, without great indignation and contempt, ſuch blunders as

'Eupolis, atque Cratĭnus, Ariſtophanes que, poëtæ,'—
'Scribĕris Vario fortis et hoſtium.'—

'Quouſque tandem abutĕre, Catilina, patientiâ noſtrâ?'—

And when he was afterwards on duty in the library, as deputy keeper, when any ſtudent, and far more when any perſon who had pretenſions to the appellation of learned, required him to produce the 'Encyclopedĭa Britannica,' the 'Icōnes virorum illuſtrium,' &c. or when any one ſpoke of the 'Noſocomĭum Regium Edinenſe,' if he did not directly reprove them, he was ſure to take an opportunity, in their hearing, to repeat the words, accompanied with a keen and ſignificant look, and to let them underſtand, that he had a way of uttering them different from theirs.

When yet very young, he was employed to officiate in teaching the ſchool of Tranent, inſtead of the maſter, who happened to be indiſpoſed. This was perhaps immediately after he had finiſhed the firſt term or ſeſſion at the univerſity, and alſo during the time of the enſuing ſeſſion; for his name does not again appear in the Album of the Univerſity, till the 4th of March 1755, when he was attending the Logic claſs under Profeſſor John Stevenſon. What figure he made as the teacher of a country ſchool is not known. His great youth muſt have rendered it difficult for him to maintain any degree of authority, where probably ſome of his pupils were older than himſelf. Nothing however can contribute more to the formation of an accurate ſcholar than to be employed, when very young, in the practice of teaching others; and it is not unlikely, that in this view, Mr Gordon had been occupied very advantageouſly for himſelf when, at the age of 16, he was teaching the ſchool of Tranent. On returning to college, he ſtudied under Mr Stevenſon, not only the elements of philoſophy, but had an opportunity of proſecuting the knowledge of Greek, while that moſt laborious and uſeful profeſſor gave lectures on Ariſtotle's Poetics, and Longinus' Treatiſe on the Sublime: for Mr Stevenſon did not content himſelf with giving lectures on Logic and Metaphyſics on the plan of the celebrated Lord Bacon, from the text book of Heineccius, and the abridgment of Locke's Eſſay on the human underſtanding; he gave a ſhort idea alſo of the old logic of the ſchools, and a brief hiſtory of philoſophy, taken chiefly from Diogenes Laertius, and from Stanley, and arranged according to the text book of Heineccius; and in order to form the taſte of his ſtudents, he cauſed them to read and tranſlate in his hearing, the Greek text of Ariſtotle's Poetics and of Longinus' Eſſay, and commented critically on what they read, ſo copiouſly, from the critical works then known, ſuch as the proſe diſcourſes and prefaces of Dryden, Addiſon's papers in the Spectator, Boſſu, Dacier, and Pope's notes on Homer, as greatly to delight and inſtruct his hearers, whom he thus initiated into thoſe pleaſing ſtudies, which, at that period of life, were quite new to them. He did not indeed attempt to give new ſyſtems of his own invention; but it was remarked, that he collected, with the greateſt diligence, whatever he could find valuable in the writings of other men; and, under a new arrangement, made uſe of it for the inſtruction of his pupils. His diligence in this reſpect continued to the lateſt period of his uſeful life; and when any new work appeared which was connected with his ſubject, he never failed to give his hearers a diſtinct account of it. Though he was upwards of 70 years of age when Dr Reid's Enquiry into the human mind was

was publiſhed, yet he took an early opportunity of delivering to his ſtudents an analyſis of that work: he did not live long enough to peruſe the Eſſays on the intellectual and active powers of man, publiſhed by the ſame eminent writer.

Mr Stevenſon was among the firſt public teachers in this country, who aſcribed its due importance, and its due praiſe, to the philoſophy of Locke and Lord Bacon, without entirely exploding the ſyſtem which had ſo long maintained its power in the ſchools: for he employed ſome part of his courſe in teaching his ſtudents the ſyllogiſtic method of impugning and defending theſes, and cauſed them actually to engage in this ſort of exerciſe in his preſence, and before the public claſs. He uſed to meet with his claſs two hours one day, and three another, alternately; and at the ſame time with the public Humanity and Greek claſſes. It was acknowledged by thoſe who had ſtudied under him, that they derived the greateſt advantage from his inſtructions. Many of thoſe who have lately diſtinguiſhed themſelves as firſt rate writers, have been forward in owning their obligations to Mr Stevenſon; and none more than the late Dr Robertſon. This illuſtrious hiſtorian, when, in the exerciſe of his academical duty, he viſited the Logic claſs, for the firſt time, to hear the ſtudents deliver certain exerciſes which had been preſcribed to them, and that in the very ſame place where he himſelf had formerly been employed in a ſimilar manner and under the ſame inſtructor, laid hold of ſuch an intereſting occaſion to acknowledge his obligations to his venerable maſter. In addreſſing the ſtudents as Principal, he expreſſed himſelf in the following terms:—"Multa a præceptore veſtro, adoleſcentes generoſi, audiviſtis, quæ ſcientiæ amorem in animis ingenuis accendere poſſunt; et exemplo ſuo, haud minus quam præceptis, viam vobis monſtravit, et ratiocinandi recte, et judicandi rite. Expertus loquor. Nam, eodem, quem vos nunc ſequimini, profeſſore præeunte, hic philoſophiæ fontes primum acceſſi; hic multarum rerum notitiam hauſi, quæ manent adhuc alta mente repoſtæ, quæ ſæpe revoco ſumma cum voluptate, nec minore fructu; et ſi vos vobiſmetipſis non defueritis, multa nunc etiam diſcere poſſitis, quæ olim meminiſſe juvabit. Non enim ab illo imbuti eſtis ſcientiæ cujuſdam futilis et contentioſæ rudimentis, ſed inſtitutis ſanæ illius philoſophiæ, quæ eſt vitæ dux, virtutis indagatrix, expultrixque vitiorum, in cujus præceptis unus dies bene actus peccanti immortalitati eſt anteponendus." — Immediately after the diſmiſſion of the claſs, the aged profeſſor, unable any longer to ſuppreſs his emotion, diſſolved in tears of grateful affection, and fell on the neck of his favourite ſcholar, now his Principal.

Though Mr Stevenſon publiſhed no work of his own, it cannot be doubted, that his inſtructions promoted the ſucceſs of many of thoſe who have ſince ſo highly exalted the celebrity of Scotiſh literature. His critical lectures, it muſt be owned, contributed a large ſhare towards the production of the more poliſhed and refined, but not more uſeful, academical diſcourſes of the late Dr Blair: and it was not without reaſon, that the inſtitution of a ſeparate chair for a Profeſſor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres was complained of, by the reſpectable veteran, as an encroachment upon his province.

It is uſual for young men of narrow circumſtances, at the Scotiſh Univerſities, to embrace the earlieſt opportunity of being employed, either as private tutors in families, or

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in giving private assistance to other students, younger than themselves: and the professors have great pleasure in recommending, to such situations, young men of that description, who have distinguished themselves in the classes. Accordingly we find, that Mr Gordon lived for some time, as a private tutor, successively in several families, particularly those of Captain Dalrymple, afterwards Earl of Stair, and of the late Lord Auchinleck, father of the well-known Mr James Boswell. How long he remained in these, or in what years he first attended the lectures on Natural and Moral Philosophy, it is not ascertained. But, having found an introduction to Dr James Robertson, Professor of Oriental Languages, distinguished for his learning and benevolent disposition, and for his kind attention to indigent young men of letters, in him he found a steady and zealous patron. By his interest, chiefly, he had obtained the situations already mentioned; and when Professor Robertson was appointed librarian to the University, in the year 1763, such was the favourable opinion he entertained of Mr Gordon, that he immediately pitched upon him as his assistant in that office; and he could not have been more fortunate in his choice.

The library of the University of Edinburgh, from a small beginning, has gradually increased into a very valuable collection. In the year 1580, Mr Clement Little, Advocate, and one of the Commissaries of Edinburgh, bequeathed his books, consisting of about 300 volumes, to the citizens and ministers of Edinburgh. They were committed to the care of Mr James Lawson, first minister of the city, and deposited in a gallery belonging to the lodgings appropriated to the ministers of Edinburgh, which were situated on the ground now occupied by the Parliament House. The University being afterwards instituted, in the year 1582, it was agreed, about two years after, by the Town Council and the Ministers, that those books should be removed to an apartment in the College, and delivered to the care of Mr Robert Rollock, who was the first Professor, and afterwards the first Principal of that Society.

Such was the commencement of the College library, which continued to increase rapidly, not only by donations from those who annually matriculated, and those who received the degree of M. A. but by the munificence of many well-disposed citizens and others, who contributed sums of money, or valuable books, for that purpose.

This library remained for many years in the particular custody of the Principals of the College, till at length it was thought, that the books would be of more general benefit, if, instead of the Principal, a librarian were appointed, who might attend regularly, at certain stated hours, for the accommodation of such as should be admitted to the use of them, agreeably to certain laws and regulations. Accordingly Mr Kenneth Logie, son to Mr James Logie, Advocate, was chosen keeper of the library, with a small annual salary, and the addition of some incidental perquisites. He was recommended to this employment, from the assistance he had given to Principal John Adamson, in arranging the books, and in making a catalogue of them. As no book was, at that time, and for many years after, lent out of the library to any of the students, the regulations then framed, respected chiefly the conduct of those who had the privilege of reading in it, upon paying a small sum, and subscribing their names to the regulations. For which purpose it was kept open six hours in the day, in

ſummer, and four in winter; during which time the librarian gave regular attendance, produced the books which were called for, and took care that the proper uſe ſhould be made of them, according to the regulations. Mr Logie continued librarian till the year 1641, when he accepted of a call to be miniſter of Skirling, in the preſbytery of Biggar. The office after this time paſſed rapidly through a great number of hands; for, as the ſalary and the annexed emoluments were very ſmall, and by no means a proper proviſion for life to any man of talents and learning, the poſſeſſors immediately reſigned, whenever a more lucrative ſituation preſented itſelf. This proved a great ſource of perplexity to the Town Council, patrons and guardians of the Univerſity; for the receiving of the books ſo often from one librarian, and delivering them to the charge of a ſucceſſor, was attended with much trouble.

Such was the ſtate of this library till the year 1667, when Mr William Henderſon was choſen keeper, who diſcharged the office with diligence and fidelity. He was at great pains in arranging the books, and in making catalogues of them; and, in particular, he kept an exact account of the books and other donations preſented to the College, with the names of the donors, during the time of his holding the office. This regiſter, which is ſtill preſerved, is preceded by a very diſtinct catalogue of the benefactors of the College, from its foundation till the year 1679.

Mr William Henderſon continued to diſcharge the duties of librarian till the year 1685, when he reſigned in favour of his ſon Robert, who had received an academical education, and taken the degree of M. A. That this young man might be the better qualified for the office, he was permitted to travel into different countries, with a view to learn the beſt method of arranging and keeping great libraries; and, during his abſence, his father continued to officiate in his ſtead. On his return he ſet himſelf, with great aſſiduity, to improve the plan of keeping the books; and his firſt object was to arrange them in the preſſes, according to the ſciences, and to make a catalogue of them in that order. This he accordingly effected; and the catalogue ſtill remains, very diſtinctly executed, in his own hand-writing, with a Latin dedication to the Lord Provoſt, Magiſtrates, and Council, and to Dr Gilbert Rule, Principal of the College. His next attempt was to frame a complete alphabetical catalogue, which was abſolutely neceſſary to facilitate the finding of the particular books. But although he remained in office till the year 1747, a period of ſixty-two years, much longer than any of his predeceſſors, or than any Profeſſor had ever continued in the college of Edinburgh, he did not live to accompliſh this favourite object. At one period he ſuffered ambition to interfere; and in the year 1690, when Mr John Drummond, Profeſſor of Humanity, was deprived of that office by the Parliamentary viſitors, Mr Henderſon appeared as one of the candidates to ſucceed him, at the comparative trial held the ſame year. But there were four other candidates, one of whom, Mr Laurence Dundas, afterwards ſo much celebrated, proved ſucceſsful. After that time, Mr Robert Henderſon ſeems to have contented himſelf with his librarianſhip, and remained in that office till the infirmities of extreme old age obliged him to reſign. He was a man of very moderate ability, with a conſiderable degree of ſelf-conceit. His emaciated and groteſque figure is ſtill remembered

membered by perſons yet ſurviving, and who were at college in his latter days. He was fond of ſhowing his talent for ſpeaking Latin; and uſed to avow his fear of approaching a certain ruinous part of the old college wall, of which it had been predicted, that it was to fall on the moſt learned man in the Univerſity.

On the reſignation of Mr Robert Henderſon, who was permitted to retain the ſalary, Profeſſor George Stuart was elected librarian in 1747. He, with the aſſiſtance of his brother, Mr Alexander Stuart, afterwards miniſter of the Weſt Church, at firſt took ſome pains in inſpecting and arranging the books, and in making a new preſs catalogue, which he had engaged to produce to the Town Council in 15 months after his accepting of the office; but this ſtipulation he was not able to fulfil; and it was not till the year 1750, in conſequence of an injunction from the patrons, that he at laſt preſented it to them. His performance, however, was not a complete catalogue, but rather an abbreviation of a catalogue; for it did not exhibit a full detail of the titles of the books. Indeed, it was obſerved that the library was kept in a very ſlovenly manner during the incumbency of Profeſſor Stuart, who was eminent as a Profeſſor of Humanity, but, as a librarian, obtained no praiſe. It is worthy of remark, that during the latter years in which he held the office, his ſon, the late celebrated Dr Gilbert Stuart, had ſome ſhare in the diſcharge of its duties; and that the acquaintance with books, which he then obtained at a very early period of his life, paved the way for the reputation which he afterwards acquired.

An event at laſt happened, which rendered the former labours of Profeſſor Stuart and his aſſiſtants, and thoſe of his predeceſſors, as keepers of the library, of very little value. The room which had been built for the library (now the Muſæum for Natural Hiſtory), was, in the year 1753, found too ſmall for the proper accommodation of the books. It was therefore propoſed, that the great room over the common hall, upwards of 100 feet in length, but low in the roof, and where the profeſſors uſed to hold their meetings on many public occaſions, ſhould be raiſed by the addition of an attic ſtory for a gallery, and accommodated with a new roof, new windows, and a new floor; and converted into a repoſitory for the books. This important work was accompliſhed about the year 1762, at which time the books were removed into it.

Fortunately, that very year, Dr William Robertſon was elected Principal of the College, who, with his uſual ſagacity, immediately foreſaw of what immenſe uſe this valuable collection might be made, under proper regulations, both to profeſſors and ſtudents; eſpecially if any method could be deviſed of increaſing its funds, and rendering it more generally acceſſible. But as it could be of little uſe without a ſet of proper catalogues; and as, for want of theſe, the books, ſince their removal, had got into great diſorder, Profeſſor Stuart the librarian was required by the patrons to ſet about this work without delay. But whether he found that his genius revolted from this Herculean taſk, and foreſaw that much additional trouble would afterwards be required, or from whatever motive, he thought proper to reſign the office into the hands of the patrons on the 12th of January 1763; and, on the ſame day, they elected in his ſtead, Dr James Robertſon, profeſſor of Oriental languages; who being yet in the prime of life, and of great induſtry, had no objections to undergo the neceſſary labour. But as

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it was thought proper that he ſhould have a ſtated aſſiſtant in the exerciſe of the various duties that would now be incident to the office, he immediately pitched upon Mr Duke Gordon for that purpoſe, who engaged to ſerve him on very moderate terms. The propriety of this choice ſoon appeared in the effectual aid which Mr Gordon contributed, in drawing up a new preſs catalogue, the firſt work which exerciſed the diligence of the new librarians, and which was ſuperintended alſo by the Principal, who took a very active part in all the buſineſs concerning the library. In order to increaſe its funds, he had prevailed on the profeſſors to contribute each an handſome donation, himſelf ſetting the example; and whereas, it had been the practice, during many years, for the ſtudents only of literature and philoſophy to enter their names in the College regiſter, and to pay, on that occaſion, a ſmall ſum for the benefit of the library, Dr Robertſon prevailed with the law and the medical profeſſors to cauſe their ſtudents alſo to matriculate annually, and to furniſh their contribution; in which ſcheme, he was warmly ſupported by the firſt Dr Monro. To induce the ſtudents to accede readily to this propoſal, it was agreed, that all the contributors ſhould not only be allowed to frequent the library, on certain days of the week, and there to call for whatever books they pleaſed, and read or conſult them on the ſpot, but that they ſhould be allowed to borrow them, upon giving a receipt, and depoſiting the value, with the exception of rare and ſplendid books which were not to be carried out of the library, but by a particular order of the curators, who conſiſted of the Principal himſelf, with five or ſix of the Profeſſors in rotation. Certain regulations to this purpoſe having been agreed upon, and having paſſed the *Senatus Academicus* on the 10th of March 1763; and certain days having been appointed for matriculation, the ſtudents of all deſcriptions, (thoſe of divinity being exempted as having a ſeparate library of their own) came forward, in preſence of the Principal and their reſpective Profeſſors, attended by the librarians, and ſubſcribed their names, and contributed with the greateſt alacrity, according to their ſeveral circumſtances. Theſe meetings were opened with prayer by the Principal, who, in a ſhort ſpeech, explained the purpoſe of them; ſtating that the Univerſity had two objects in view in thus calling the ſtudents together; one of which was to give them acceſs to a valuable collection of books, and the other to enable them, at any future period of their lives, to aſcertain, by a certificate under the hand of the librarian, that they had obtained an academical education. The *Spensio Academica* was then read to them, which they ſubſcribed, as their names were called over from liſts previouſly made up by the librarians; and as each ſubſcribed, he received a ticket entitling him to the privilege of the library for one year. A ſeparate book, containing all the names with the ſums contributed annexed to each, was alſo kept; and the money collected was delivered to the Principal who acted as caſhier, ſuperintended the purchaſe of books, diſburſed the money, and ſubmitted his accounts to be audited by the curators, previous to their being reported to the *Senatus Academicus*.

THIS plan, which has now been adhered to for near forty years, has been attended with the utmoſt advantage to the Univerſity. During that time more than L. 6000 worth of books have been added to the library, beſides thoſe received by act of Parliament from Stationer's Hall,

Hall, and occaſional donations from authors and others; and it is ſuppoſed that the library of no Univerſity has ever been rendered ſo eaſily acceſſible to ſtudents, or has contributed ſo much to their improvement in knowledge, as that of the Univerſity of Edinburgh. As it was found deficient in medical books when the new regulations were made, it was agreed that all the money contributed by medical ſtudents ſhould be expended on books in that department; by which means the medical collection is now conſidered as one of the moſt complete which is any where to be found; a circumſtance which has been of the utmoſt uſe to the medical ſtudents, many of whom come from a great diſtance, and cannot be ſuppoſed to be well furniſhed with books. The certificates too, which many of thoſe ſtudents obtain from the Album, or Regiſter, on their leaving the univerſity, by aſcertaining their having received a regular medical education, are found greatly to promote their ſucceſs in life. So that this library may be conſidered as having contributed a large ſhare to the celebrity of the Medical College in the Univerſity of Edinburgh.

Before the end of the year 1764, the librarian and his deputy, with the aſſiſtance of ſeveral ſtudents, employed alſo by Profeſſor Robertſon, had completed two copies of a preſs catalogue; but the alphabetical one, a more difficult work, ſtill remained to be conſtructed, which the librarians immediately undertook with equal alacrity, aſſiſted in the ſame manner. After more than three years ſtrenuous labour, this taſk was at laſt accompliſhed. Nor were the patrons of the Univerſity wanting in a laudable zeal for the ſucceſs of this work. On the firſt of Auguſt 1764, the Town Council had voted L. 60 extraordinary to Profeſſor Robertſon "for his great and indefatigable trouble in putting the library in order;" and, on the completing of the alphabetical catalogue, they not only, on the 20th of July 1768, ordered an account of expences incurred by him, amounting to upwards of L. 85, to be paid; but authoriſed the Lord Provoſt to thank him in their name, and to preſent him with 70 guineas for his own particular trouble; which, however inadequate it might be ſuppoſed, was certainly, conſidering the ſcanty revenue of the Univerſity, very liberal on the part of the patrons.

Besides the preſs and alphabetical catalogues, into which the books annually acquired for the library are regularly entered, it was thought proper to keep ſeparate liſts of the books purchaſed for the general and for the medical branches; alſo of thoſe received from Stationer's Hall, and of thoſe acquired by donation. This accordingly has been regularly done; all which catalogues lie ready for the inſpection of the curators, and of the patrons of the Univerſity; ſo that the ſtate of the library may now be ſeen and underſtood with the greateſt eaſe.

But it is evident that the carrying on all this complicated work properly, muſt produce great and inceſſant trouble to the librarians; one of the moſt laborious parts of which, the lending and receiving of the books, devolved on Mr Gordon the aſſiſtant; who ſoon ſhowed himſelf in every reſpect admirably calculated for this department of the duty. Reſpectful and obliging behaviour to the profeſſors; conduct to the ſtudents not too familiar but ſtrictly impartial; firmneſs bordering on auſterity when petulance was to be repreſſed; diſtance and reſerve when ignorance and conceit provoked contempt; readineſs to aſſiſt where modeſty ſeemed to require

aſſiſt-

aſſiſtance; were qualities which he poſſeſſed in a high degree. Theſe were attended with ſuch diligence, preciſion, accuracy, fidelity, punctuality, as could not be exceeded. By Principal Robertſon, who had frequent occaſion to obſerve him particularly, he was conſidered as a perſon of the utmoſt utility, and frequently mentioned by him as the perfect model of a deputy librarian. To Profeſſor Robertſon, the head librarian, his value was ineſtimable; who ſoon diſcerned that he not only might ſafely entruſt to him the whole charge of lending and receiving the books; but committed to him likewiſe the greateſt ſhare of the trouble of entering the newly acquired books into the different catalogues. The occaſional general inſpection of the library; the giving of certificates to the ſtudents; the management of the diplomas, when degrees were conferred; the preparing the liſts of the ſtudents for the matriculations; and the keeping of a written record of the proceedings of the Univerſity, were other parts of the duty which could not ſo well be diſcharged by a deputy; and therefore Profeſſor Robertſon reſerved the greateſt part of this ſort of labour to himſelf; ſtill Mr Gordon was ever ready to aſſiſt at the matriculations, and conſtantly contributed, to the utmoſt of his power, to the relief of his worthy patron and benefactor.

Professer Robertſon having held the office of chief librarian for 20 years, began at length, notwithſtanding the exertions of his excellent aſſiſtant, to feel the charge very burdenſome; and, wiſhing to reſign, he expreſſed a deſire to Mr Dalzel, profeſſor of Greek, that he ſhould be his ſucceſſor, providing that ſuch an arrangement ſhould prove agreeable to the patrons of the Univerſity. Principal Robertſon, having highly approved of the propoſal, recommended the adopting of it to Sir James Hunter Blair, then Lord Provoſt; and he and the other members of the Town Council finding it agreeable to the Univerſity, they, in October 1785, upon the reſignation of Profeſſor Robertſon, elected him, with Profeſſor Dalzel, joint Librarians; the ſole office to be poſſeſſed by the ſurvivor, the former, in the mean time, being permitted to retain the ſalary, and to have a great ſhare alſo of the incidental emoluments; after deducting an allowance for the aſſiſtant.

This change ſeemed at firſt to diſconcert Mr Gordon, who was probably afraid that the mode to which he had been ſo long accuſtomed might be ſomehow altered or embarraſſed: but ſoon finding himſelf treated by Mr Dalzel with great delicacy and attention, his allowance ſomewhat increaſed, and at the ſame time, every means uſed for his agreeable accommodation, he ſoon came to a proper underſtanding with the new Librarian; who, while he was ſenſible of Mr Gordon's ineſtimable value, comprehended perfectly the particular humour of his character. For a conſiderable number of years they acted together with the greateſt cordiality, each endeavouring to accommodate himſelf to the convenience of the other. By their united exertions, order has been reſtored to ſome parts of the Library, which had gone into confuſion; a great number of new books which had been ſuffered to lie on the floor for ſeveral years, have been placed in new ſhelves; and the catalogues, which had been made in too great a hurry, have been corrected in many particulars. Further amendment ſtill is requiſite, and a new catalogue, with the titles of the books, arranged under certain heads, according to the ſciences, would be an improvement of great importance.

But

But as hopes have long been entertained, that the new buildings for the college, ſo auſpiciouſly begun more than ten years ago, may be accompliſhed at no very diſtant period; and as accommodation of the ampleſt kind will then be provided for the books, and a new arrangement of them muſt take place, any further material improvement upon the library is naturally poſtponed till that much wiſhed for time ſhall arrive.

That a work of ſuch evident utility, as the re-building of the College of Edinburgh, and ſo intimately connected with the character of the nation, ſhould have been ſo long retarded, has furniſhed a ſubject of general regret. There is not, however, the ſmalleſt reaſon to doubt that when the miniſter for Scotiſh affairs patroniſed that moſt important undertaking, he was extremely anxious to have it accompliſhed: but the immenſe load of buſineſs, occaſioned by the French revolution, obliged miniſters to ſuſpend their attention to the intereſts of learning, which they may have meant to reſume at a leſs buſtling, and more favourable period. In the mean time, a ſum of money lately beſtowed by Royal Munificence, for the purpoſe of preſerving the unfiniſhed part of the building from going to ruin, and the appearance of the workmen again on the walls, are ſtill flattering proofs to the citizens of Edinburgh, and to ſtrangers who reſort to that antient capital, that the cauſe of learning is not yet abandoned; and renew the pleaſing proſpect that the youth, attracted thither from ſo many quarters of the world, will at laſt receive the expected inſtruction, in apartments properly adapted for the purpoſe. Then a commodious receptacle will alſo be provided for the books, and a new arrangement of them be deviſed, which may render them of ſtill greater utility than they are at preſent; and ſtill better calculated to promote the renown of the Univerſity, of which they form ſo important a part.

Mr Gordon continued to perform his duty in the Library faithfully and punctually, till within theſe few years, when his health began to decline; which obliged him to be ſometimes abſent on the public days. On thoſe occaſions Mr Dalzel ſupplied his place, and endeavoured to alleviate his ſituation as much as poſſible in every reſpect. But he could not ſuffer to ſee a Profeſſor whom he ſo much reſpected, in addition to his own duty, ſubmitting to do alſo every part of the drudgery incident to the keeping of the Library; and he was evidently dejected and unhappy. They therefore agreed to unite their endeavours in training a young aſſiſtant, who might in a great meaſure relieve them both. But the circulation of books had of late increaſed ſo much, that they were convinced that two active perſons of that deſcription, inſtead of one, would ſoon become neceſſary for performing the duty well. In the mean time, when they had ſucceeded in the initiation of one deſerving young man into the buſineſs, who was ſoon able to perform a conſiderable part of the duty, Mr Gordon, feeling his health ſtill on the decline, confined himſelf for ſome months to his chamber, and too much indulged a diſpoſition for ſolitude; refuſing the advice of a phyſician, though all the medical Profeſſors in the Univerſity would, upon an hint given, have attended him with the greateſt readineſs: but on this ſubject he was obſtinate to the laſt, and inſiſted that no phyſician could be of the ſmalleſt benefit to him. The regimen he obſerved, and the habit of retirement he continued to indulge, were not calculated to promote the reſtoration of

his health. He died on the laſt day but one of the year 1800, in the 62d year of his age.

He was a man of the ſtricteſt probity; and practiſed frugality as the only mode of arriving at a ſituation of independence, by which he might be enabled to live in his own way, and according to his own peculiar humour. After his deceaſe, his private affairs were found to be arranged with the ſame accuracy and diſtinctneſs, which had marked his tranſactions in the library. The emolument which could be afforded for all the toil he underwent there was ſo extremely ſmall, that unleſs he had taken pleaſure in the exerciſe of the duty, it could not be ſuppoſed that he would have continued long to perform it. But he evidently took delight in that, which, to moſt other men, would have been intolerable drudgery; he ſeemed fond of ſpending much of his time among books, and of poſſeſſing the power of obliging men of letters, as well as ſtudents, in the proſecution of their ſeveral ſtudies; and, being entirely free from ambition, he would have willingly contented himſelf with the humble but uſeful ſtation of Aſſiſtant Librarian, as a ſole and ultimate object. But as what he earned in this way was quite inadequate to his decent maintenance, he found it neceſſary to ſeek for an addition to his income, by teaching, privately, the Latin and Greek languages.

For ſome years after he undertook his charge in the Library, he reſided in the family of the late worthy Mr Alexander Tait, Clerk of Seſſion, as private tutor to his ſons; and had a chief hand in the education of the late Mr William Tait, advocate, and member of parliament. Mr Tait the father, always treated him with great liberality and kindneſs; and Mr Gordon in his turn, was much attached to the family, and took a great intereſt in Mr William Tait's ſucceſs in life. This young gentleman poſſeſſed excellent abilities for the bar, and became a very fluent and eloquent pleader; and Mr Gordon was, for ſome time, much gratified in obſerving his pupil's ſucceſs. On one occaſion, he even contributed conſiderable aſſiſtance in enabling him to make a moſt brilliant appearance at the bar, in a cauſe reſpecting literary property, in which the pleader ſurpriſed the Court, by a great diſplay of etymological erudition. At laſt a ſuſpicion of a want of attention on the part of Mr Tait, and afterwards his premature death, proved a great ſource of affliction to Mr Gordon. So ſevere a trial, ſeemed at times to affect his intellectual faculties; and, it was obſerved, that his conſtitution never completely recovered from the ſhock.

After he quitted the family of Mr Tait's father, he had devoted many of his ſpare hours to the private inſtruction of young gentlemen attending the high ſchool, or the Univerſity; and he found much employment in bringing forward ſtudents of phyſic, whoſe previous education had been neglected, in a knowledge of Latin and Greek, with a view to their taking the doctor's degree. Some of theſe he uſed to aſſiſt in compoſing their Latin inaugural diſſertations; though he did not ſet up for a profeſſed adept in this line, a character well known among the medical ſtudents, by the cant appellation of *Grinder*.

He had a familiar acquaintance with the Latin claſſics; and, in particular, he had ſtudied with great care the writings of Celſus, which enabled him to be of ſingular uſe to his medical ſcholars. To many ſtudents he taught alſo the principles of Greek, and aſſiſted them privately in preparing their taſks for

for the Greek claſſes in the Univerſity. As a private teacher, he ſhewed the ſame diligence, accuracy and fidelity, which diſtinguiſhed him as keeper of the Library.

AUGMENTED thus, as his income was, from the rewards of private teaching, ſtill it could not be great; but having no family, and chooſing to remain a bachelor, his houſehold expence muſt have been extremely ſmall. His emoluments as Aſſiſtant Librarian never exceeded L. 35 per annum; for near 20 years they were not more than L. 15. The Senatus Academicus, ſenſible of his great merit, allowed him L. 10, in addition; and on Profeſſor Dalzel's becoming Librarian, he began to receive in all L. 35 annually. It was chiefly then from his earnings as a teacher, that he raiſed himſelf to a ſtate of independance, and indeed opulence, to a man who had ſo few wants as Mr Gordon. Having once ſecured a competency, and to ſpare, his habits of frugality did not reſtrain him from the exerciſe of generoſity; and he has been frequently known to relieve, with the utmoſt readineſs, the wants of the indigent.

A taſte for books was his chief indulgence; and of thoſe he had gradually provided a ſelect collection, chiefly claſſical. His reading was very extenſive, and he even ſuggeſted to Principal Robertſon, hints for his reſearches, which that diſtinguiſhed author, and prudent man, did not think himſelf too wiſe to deſpiſe or reject; but he has left no ſpecimens of original compoſition, an exerciſe at which he ſeldom ſeems to have aimed. What he wrote down, conſiſted of ſtriking paſſages, ſelected from various authors, which he tranſcribed into volumes, without any attention to arrangement; and therefore the title he gave them was *Chaos*. The blank leaves of moſt of his books, he filled with ſuch anecdotes concerning their authors, ſome of them extremely curious, as he had gleaned in the courſe of his reading. In the Glaſgow Horace, commonly ſtiled *Immaculate*, he detected three errors; a diſcovery by which he was much amuſed, and which furniſhed him with one topic for a vein of ſarcaſtic humour, which, in the hours of feſtivity, he ſometimes uſed to indulge. But his *Gesner's Thesaurus* remains the moſt conſpicuous proof of his induſtry, its blank leaves being completely covered with an account of the tenſes of the Latin verb from Schellerus; and the margins of almoſt every page of the book crowded with additional examples and illuſtrations.

To three of his particular friends, Profeſſor Dalzel, for whom he entertained a great reſpect and eſteem; the Reverend Andrew Johnſton, Miniſter of Salton, in whoſe education, and fortune in life, he had taken an early intereſt; and Mr William Whyte, writer in Edinburgh, to whom he conſidered himſelf as under great obligations; he diſponed or conveyed, by his Will, all the effects which he poſſeſſed at the time of his death, burdened with a life annuity to his only ſiſter, Aitken, and her huſband Nicol Monro, a reputable ſhoemaker; together with ſeveral other private legacies, of which the detail cannot excite any intereſt. His public bequeſts were L. 500 to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh; the reverſion of a tenement of houſes of nearly the ſame value, to the poor of the pariſh of St Cuthbert's; and ſuch of his books, to the Library of the Univerſity of Edinburgh, as the Librarian ſhould think proper to be added to that collection.

THE minuteneſs of this narrative may, to ſome, require an apology. No more was at firſt intended, than a very brief memorial of a man,

whoſe ſingular merit, in a moſt uſeful though humble ſphere, entitled him to an honourable remembrance. But as his character could not be well deſcribed, detached from a particular account of that ſort of duty which he had to perform, it was found neceſſary to introduce a variety of literary detail, not unintereſting, it is hoped, to thoſe who have received their education in the Univerſity of Edinburgh; and who will be ſoothed with the recollection of thoſe happy days, when they uſed to be furniſhed with the inſtruments of knowledge by the hands of Mr Duke Gordon.

The following is an inſcription, written by Mr Dalzel, for a monument to be erected to his memory, in the church-yard of St Cuthbert's.

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Per annos fere quadraginta, feliciter geſſit:
Vir in ſuo genere plane eximius:
Eruditus, indefeſſus, fidelis,
Accuratus, officioſus,—interdum auſterus;
Sed, in munere difficillimo fungendo,
Auſteritatem comitate tam prudenter temperans,
Ut omnium Academicorum laudem et gratiam adipiſceretur.
Cælebs, ambitionis expers, contentus parvo,
Ex horis ſubſecivis, quas ingenuæ juventuti privatim erudiendæ ſacravit,
Modicam rem præcipue quærebat;
Unde, ſumma adhibita frugalitate,
Extra nutum alienum poſitus,
Vivendi rationem ſuo arbitrio ſibi inſtituendam decrevit:
Atque, vita parum ſplendida, at utiliſſima tamen,
Ad finem vergente,
De facultatibus, quas honeſto labore acquiſitas perpercerat,
Partem aliquam teſtamento legavit
Unicæ ſuæ ſorori ejuſque marito,
Aliam Noſocomio Regio Edinenſi,
Aliam Sancti Cuthberti pauperibus:
Earumque reſiduum
(Almæ ſuæ Matris Academiæ non immemor)
Tribus ex Amicis ſuis, quos præ cæteris dilexit,
Quique hoc marmor, memoriæ ejus ſacrum, ponendum curarunt.
Natus eſt xiii. Kal. Jun. A. D. M.DCC.XXXIX.
Obiit ipſo die penult. ſeculi xviii.

For the Scots Magazine.

ON THE EXISTENCE OF ATHEISTIC NATIONS.

When we begin to inveſtigate the origin of the idea of God, in the rude and uninformed mind, a fact of conſiderable importance immediately preſents itſelf. An inductive inveſtigation of the hiſtory of opinions, among other articles of natural religion, eſtabliſhes, almoſt beyond contradiction, the univerſal belief of that fundamental doctrine, the exiſtence of the Deity. To the univerſality of this belief, however, ſome objections have been made, from ſuppoſed exceptions. Independently of its theological importance, the fact reſpecting the exiſtence of an Atheiſtic nation, or tribe, claims an accurate conſideration, from its connection with the hiſtory of ſociety, as well as with the origin and progreſs of opinions of the moſt extenſive influence. If any nation, or tribe, has been diſcovered, entirely devoid of religion and religious ideas, we attain the knowledge of an uncommon fact in the hiſtory of the progreſs of the human mind. The inveſtigation, therefore, of the cauſes, concomitant circumſtances and conſequences, of ſuch a phenomenon, cannot fail to elucidate the origin of human ideas, opinions, and cuſtoms. The exiſtence of ſuch a fact, could demonſtrate only, that the intellect of the rude man, may be depreſſed as far as the underſtanding of the civilized man may be perverted;—it could furniſh no valid argument againſt the truth of the opinion which it has been brought to diſprove; yet it has been hailed with exultation, by that claſs of *ſoi-diſant* philoſophers, who, though the moſt obſtinate opponents of one ſpecies of remarkable phænomena, with a ſagacious perverſity of judgment peculiar to themſelves, are the ardent advocates of miracles, in every other department of nature and hiſtory. As the inductive evidence for the univerſal belief of the exiſtence of Deity, may be conſidered as almoſt complete, it may be curious, as well as uſeful, to inveſtigate the ſuppoſed exceptions.

1. *Of the Hottentots.*

The Hottentots, Caffres, and their kindred tribes, the Gheyſſiquas, Namaquas, Koraquas, Kabobiquas, and Houzouanas, compoſe a variety of paſtoral hordes, that ſubſiſt in a ſtate of liſtleſs inactivity, while their natural wants are readily ſupplied by their flocks and herds; and their faculties are lulled into an indolent tranquillity, by the uniformity of their occupations, and the ſameneſs of the ſcenes preſented by the wilds of Africa. Their ideas are too confined, and their powers too languid, to be ſtimulated beyond ſtupid wonder, by the greateſt novelty; and they think that they have exhauſted knowledge, becauſe they are unacquainted with the extent of their own ignorance. To a people, in this ſituation, the reſtleſs and unquiet ſuggeſtions of curioſity, are evidently more to be dreaded than deſired. Whatever, therefore, happens to attract their attention for a moment, is ſoon reſigned, as either below their notice, or beyond their ability; and every inveſtigation is ſuſpended, before an accurate idea of its difficulty is formed. The contracted ſphere of ſociety, to which they are confined, is

whoſe ſingular merit, in a moſt uſeful though humble ſphere, entitled him to an honourable remembrance. But as his character could not be well deſcribed, detached from a particular account of that ſort of duty which he had to perform, it was found neceſſary to introduce a variety of literary detail, not unintereſting, it is hoped, to thoſe who have received their education in the Univerſity of Edinburgh; and who will be ſoothed with the recollection of thoſe happy days, when they uſed to be furniſhed with the inſtruments of knowledge by the hands of Mr Duke Gordon.

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When we begin to inveſtigate the origin of the idea of God, in the rude and uninformed mind, a fact of conſiderable importance immediately preſents itſelf. An inductive inveſtigation of the hiſtory of opinions, among other articles of natural religion, eſtabliſhes, almoſt beyond contradiction, the univerſal belief of that fundamental doctrine, the exiſtence of the Deity. To the univerſality of this belief, however, ſome objections have been made, from ſuppoſed exceptions. Independently of its theological importance, the fact reſpecting the exiſtence of an Atheiſtic nation, or tribe, claims an accurate conſideration, from its connection with the hiſtory of ſociety, as well as with the origin and progreſs of opinions of the moſt extenſive influence. If any nation, or tribe, has been diſcovered, entirely devoid of religion and religious ideas, we attain the knowledge of an uncommon fact in the hiſtory of the progreſs of the human mind. The inveſtigation, therefore, of the cauſes, concomitant circumſtances and conſequences, of ſuch a phenomenon, cannot fail to elucidate the origin of human ideas, opinions, and cuſtoms. The exiſtence of ſuch a fact, could demonſtrate only, that the intellect of the rude man, may be depreſſed as far as the underſtanding of the civilized man may be perverted;—it could furniſh no valid argument againſt the truth of the opinion which it has been brought to diſprove; yet it has been hailed with exultation, by that claſs of *soi-diſant* philoſophers, who, though the moſt obſtinate oppoments of one ſpecies of remarkable phænomena, with a ſagacious perverſity of judgment peculiar to themſelves, are the ardent advocates of miracles, in every other department of nature and hiſtory. As the inductive evidence for the univerſal belief of the exiſtence of Deity, may be conſidered as almoſt complete, it may be curious, as well as uſeful, to inveſtigate the ſuppoſed exceptions.

1. *Of the Hottentots.*

The Hottentots, Caffres, and their kindred tribes, the Gheyſſiquas, Namaquas, Koraquas, Kabobiquas, and Houzouanas, compoſe a variety of paſtoral hordes, that ſubſiſt in a ſtate of liſtleſs inactivity, while their natural wants are readily ſupplied by their flocks and herds; and their faculties are lulled into an indolent tranquillity, by the uniformity of their occupations, and the ſameneſs of the ſcenes preſented by the wilds of Africa. Their ideas are too confined, and their powers too languid, to be ſtimulated beyond ſtupid wonder, by the greateſt novelty; and they think that they have exhauſted knowledge, becauſe they are unacquainted with the extent of their own ignorance. To a people, in this ſituation, the reſtleſs and unquiet ſuggeſtions of curioſity, are evidently more to be dreaded than deſired. Whatever, therefore, happens to attract their attention for a moment, is ſoon reſigned, as either below their notice, or beyond their ability; and every inveſtigation is ſuſpended, before an accurate idea of its difficulty is formed. The contracted ſphere of ſociety, to which they are confined,

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is ſufficient to afford ſcope for the moſt obvious ſocial feelings; but extenſive benevolence requires too much reflection for the ſavage This character, which, in ſome meaſure, is common to the rudeſt tribes of ſavages, is heightened, in its principal features, by the peculiarity of the ſituation of the Hottentots: on which account the charge of atheiſm is propoſed with the greater probability. The ſupineneſs of the Hottentots, in their general manner of life, and their particular averſion to thought, reflection, and ſtudy, is confirmed by the unanimous teſtimony of travellers of every deſcription, who have viſited the regions in which they reſide. Groundleſs opinions are aſſumed from tradition, without examination, and abſtruſe or obſcure truths, never attract attention. But the reception of error, and the ignorance of truth, alter not the reſpective natures of either truth or error;—they only point out the comparative difficulty with which different kinds of truth are attained. The profound reaſoning which is founded upon the relations of number, quantity, or cauſation, is no further known among theſe rude Africans, than is abſolutely neceſſary for their ſubſiſtence. Men never attend to objects which are unconnected with their neceſſities or pleaſures. When the mind is employed about theſe, it is too much engroſſed to be able to attend to any other object; and except it be ſtimulated by theſe, it will not ſubmit to the toil of inveſtigation, unleſs attracted by the graces of novelty. Our enjoyments can proceed only from the gratification of our deſires, and the ſupply of our wants. Our artificial wants are infinite in their object, and can never be ſupplied, and therefore afford a continual ſtimulus to exertion. But the ſupply of our natural wants, diſpoſes us to reſt, inactivity and ſleep; and, for the moſt part, the very act induces a degree of fatigue upon the corporeal ſyſtem. But the natural wants of the Hottentots are almoſt the only ones with which they are acquainted, as the whites, in their commerce with them, have never attempted to excite artificial wants, except thoſe of baubles, tobacco, and brandy. Such habits of life may almoſt be expected to render the acquiſition of accurate ideas concerning a Deity, and a future ſtate, impoſſible. If their notions of objects, with which they are acquainted, are encumbered with numerous inconſiſtencies, how can we expect, that thoſe opinions ſhould be clear, which are primarily ſuggeſted by reflection, but afterwards confuſed by obſcure traditions, and the ſtupid impoſtures of dotage, when the ſeniors of a hord, afraid of being deſerted in a ſtate of imbecillity, attempt to procure a myſterious credit, by pretending to an intercourſe with ſupernatural beings? How can we expect, that theſe opinions, which the human mind can never fully comprehend, the contemplation of which fill it with aſtoniſhment and awe, in the ſage, can be free from confuſion, in the ſavage. It would be ridiculous to ſuppoſe, that perſons who had never thought, or reflected, ſhould be acquainted with the idea of God. If a nation of men exiſted, the activity of whoſe minds never exceeded that of a perſon aſleep, we would not expect them to have attained the idea of the Deity. We do not look for it in children, till their knowledge of objects has attained a certain degree of accuracy; and, among the vulgar of every country, we find that their ideas on this ſubject are obſcure, confuſed, and even contradictory. How is it, therefore, wonderful, that ſome inaccuracy ſhould occur in the opinions of very rude nations, equally unpractiſed in thinking, and unqualified for reflection?

The Hottentots, who in ſome old maps

maps of M. de L'Iſle, are termed Choccoquas, probably from their clucking pronounciation, have been deſcribed by various travellers, who in their obſervations, have had different objects in view. The earlieſt of theſe which I have peruſed is Kolben, who viſited the Cape in 1704. His relation is charged by Vaillant with inaccuracy, not from falſehood, but from the exaggeration of known and allowed facts. He is ſaid, by that lively Frenchman, to have wanted ſufficient opportunities of information, as he was never beyond the Cape. But it muſt be recollected that at that period, the ſettlements of the planters did not extend ſo far into the interior part of the country as at preſent, and that intercourſe with the various Hottentot tribes, was then more frequent than at preſent at the Cape. Before Kolben, ſome travellers had repreſented the Hottentots as devoid of religion, becauſe they had obſerved among them, no temples, altars, or religious ceremonies. The vague term which was at firſt uſed, was, That the Hottentots were *without religion*; a phraſe which may be applied with equal propriety, to ſignify *without true religion, without eſtabliſhed religion, without that conduct in life which is agreeable to religion*, and *without religious ideas*. Thus Haitho the Armenian, who lived in the 13th century, in his Oriental Hiſtory, relates, that the Moguls lived at firſt beyond the mountains Belgian or Belchan *without religion*, and without the uſe of letters; though he immediately ſubjoins, that the chiefs of theſe tribes, moved by a viſion, or command of God, choſe Changie or Zingis, for their ſovereign and ruler. In the New Teſtament, the Ionian Greeks are declared to have been *without God in the world*, before their converſion to Chriſtianity, notwithſtanding their fiery zeal for the worſhip of Diana of the Epheſians. But Kolben, during his reſidence at the Cape, procured very particular information, concerning the religious, or rather ſuperſtitious belief of the Hottentots; information, which though it may poſſibly be exaggerated in ſome points, is, for the moſt part, exactly confirmed by the obſervations of the accurate Thunberg who viſited the Cape in 1772. The chief objects of this traveller's attention, were Natural Hiſtory, Medicine, Agriculture, Rural and Domeſtic oeconomy, and Manners. His accuracy in diſtinguiſhing between what he ſaw, what he conjectured, and what he was informed of, to which laſt ſource of information, he gives little attention, and his brief buſineſs-like ſtile, devoid of ornament, and unincumbered by reflections, produce the utmoſt confidence in his veracity.

Kolben gives the following relation of the religion of the Hottentots. "As the chief of a Hottentot nation preſides over the captains of the Kraals, ſo the Hottentots call the Supreme Being, *the Great or Supreme Captain*, whom they believe to be the Creator of all things, and the governor of the world, endowed with unſearchable perfections. They commonly call him Gounja Gounja, or Gounja Tiquoa; and ſay, that he is a good man that does nobody any hurt, and that he dwells far above the moon. But it does not appear that they addreſs any act of devotion immediately to the Supreme Being. Their adorations are paid to what they call inferior deities, dependent on him; for the moſt ſenſible of them, when they are in the humour to anſwer the queſtions aſked them on this ſubject, ſay, that their anceſtors ſo grievouſly offended the God of gods, that he curſed them with hardneſs of heart, therefore they know little of him, and have ſtill leſs inclination to ſerve him than knowledge of his nature." Kolben then proceeds to mention their worſhip of the moon, and

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that of an inſect of the Genus, *Mantis*, with various other ſuperſtitious uſages. Thunberg confirms the account of certain ceremonies being practiſed, both with reſpect to the moon, and the inſect, but is not certain that they are religious in their nature. "At Zwellendam, ſays he, one may ſee the Hottentots, the relicts of former hordes, run about on the firſt night of the new moon, pull off their caps, curtſey, &c. A ſmall grey ſpecies of grashopper is called the Hottentot's god, and is ſuppoſed to be worſhipped by them. I could not perceive any reaſon for this ſuppoſition, but it was certainly held in ſome degree of eſteem by them; ſo that they did not willingly hurt it, and deemed that perſon or creature fortunate upon whom it ſettled."—That Thunberg obſerved no marks of adoration among the Hottentots, is not remarkable; for many inſtances are noticed by travellers, of their concealing this veneration in the preſence of whites, till the inſect has been in actual danger. Kolben farther relates, that the Hottentots worſhip an evil being, whom they conſider as the father of miſchief, and the cauſe of all their misfortunes. This being they denominate Touquoa, and ſay, "he is a little crabbed inferior captain, whoſe malice will never let him reſt, and, therefore, they worſhip him to avert it, and wheedle him by the offering of an ox or a ſheep." Agreeable to this relation, is that of Thunberg, who ſays, "In conſequence of their extreme ſupineneſs, they have little or no religion. It ſhould ſeem, indeed, that they are not entirely ignorant of the exiſtence of of a powerful Supreme Being, and they appear alſo to acknowledge the immortality of the ſoul, after its ſeparation from the body; but they have no temples, pay no kind of worſhip to any divinity, and give themſelves no thought about rewards or puniſhments after death. They have much clearer notions of an evil ſpirit whom they fear, believing him to be the cauſe of ſickneſs, death, thunder, and every calamity that befalls them. They are very ſuperſtitious, and put great faith in witchcraft." This relation bears intrinſic marks of fidelity and accuracy, as it coincides with every authentic account of the creeds of barbarous nations. Bancroft in his hiſtory of Guiana, ſtates, that all the Indians of that country believe in one ſupreme God, to whom they attribute all the good, and none of the evils of life. They alſo believe, in a ſubordinate order of malevolent beings, who delight in miſchief, and are permitted to inflict evil on mankind. They ſeem to have ſome idea of a future ſtate; but are not very ſolicitous to inveſtigate the ſubject. An indolent tranquillity, and an inattention to futurity, predominate in their minds, and their care, ſo far from extending to another ſtate of exiſtence, ſeldom reach beyond the preſent hour.

Sparrman, whoſe attention, in his different journeys through the country of the Hottentots, was chiefly directed to Geography, Botany, and Mineralogy, affirms, that not only the tribes of the Hottentots, but the Bosjesmen, a race of deſperate outlaws, believe in magic, attribute rain, cold, and thunder, to ſome miſchievous being; accoſt their dead friends with reproaches for leaving them ſo ſoon, admoniſh them to behave properly in their new ſituation, by neither returning to haunt them, nor becoming ſubſervient to the malicious deſigns of the wizzards. He nevertheleſs adds, that when he queſtioned both Hottentots and Bosjesmen, concerning the exiſtence of a ſupreme God, they anſwered, "we are poor ſtupid creatures, and have never heard; neither are we able to underſtand any thing of the matter." As a confirmation of this

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ſtatement, we are informed by Vaillant, in his account of the Namaquas; that religion, divine worſhip, prieſts, temples, and the idea of an immortal ſoul, are to them non-entities; and that of theſe ſubjects, like the reſt of the neighbouring ſavages, they have not the ſlighteſt idea. The ſame author, in his account of the Kabobiquas, while he admits that they believe in the exiſtence of a Supreme Being, the former and ruler of the world, who reſides beyond the ſtars, aſſerts poſitively, that they are the only Hottentot nation among whom he found this belief. To reconcile thoſe contradictory aſſertions, it is neceſſary to advert to another circumſtance, mentioned by Kolben, who ſays, "That the reſerve of the Hottentots is extreme, eſpecially upon ſubjects that relate to religion." He aſſerts that it was with great difficulty, after a long time, and many attempts, that he at laſt acquired a knowledge of the Hottentot opinions. When detected in the relation of contradictions, they were wont to allege, that the Europeans were crafty and deſigning people; who did not aſk queſtions merely for the ſake of the anſwer, but to ſerve their own purpoſes, which were generally hoſtile to the lives and happineſs of the Hottentots. This general fact is demonſtrated by the teſtimony of every traveller. Sparrman remarks, that the Hottentot nation have a peculiar kind of reſerve. "When, for inſtance," ſays he, "any thing remarkable happens, a Hottentot, if he can, endeavours to avoid mentioning it for ſome days; and when at laſt he does ſpeak of it, it is with a kind of circumlocution, or, according to the term of the coloniſts, with a *dray*, that is, a twiſt or winding. Indeed for the moſt part, the Hottentot comes out with his intelligence ſo late, that inſtead of being of any uſe, it only ſerves to vex one."—"One muſt never," ſays Thunberg, "attack the Hottentots with direct queſtions, if one wiſhes to know the truth of any thing, but it muſt be fiſhed out of them by degrees, and as it were, diſcourſing upon other ſubjects." It is eaſy to judge what notable interpreters, perſons of this perverſe genius muſt have formed, more eſpecially, when three or four were employed to convey a ſingle piece of information, through the medium of as many diſtinct languages. Yet ſuch was frequently the ſituation of Vaillant. Neither was it a circumſtance favourable to the ſucceſs of his inquiries, that theſe muſt have appeared extremely impertinent to his interpreters, who were only anxious to return to their families, from the unknown and ſavage regions into which he had conducted them. Barbarous nations generally place the habitations of ſpirits beyond the moſt diſtant mountains with which they are acquainted. If we could ſuppoſe Vaillant's guides to have entertained ſuch an opinion, it is impoſſible to ſay what ſurmiſes the adventurous ſpirit of the traveller might excite in their minds. Recollecting the vaſt extent of country through which he had conducted them in ſearch of a *giraffe*, might they not dread, that in ſearch of *God*, he might lead them to the end of the world. But the vague and general aſſertion of Vaillant will forfeit all claim to credit, if it be conſidered, that the theiſtical Kabobiquas, and Cape Hottentots, have conſiderable intercourſe with all the ſurrounding tribes, and that theſe tribes are not accuſed of the diſbelief, but of the ignorance of the exiſtence of God, and the want of the perception of religious ideas. But in theſe circumſtances, ſuch an ignorance is not only unprecedented, but entirely impoſſible. Vaillant himſelf admits that the belief of witch-

witchcraft or ſorcery, exiſts among tribes which he aſſerts have no religion. He mentions, in particular, a reputed witch named Kakoas, who was highly venerated by the Namaquas, and ſo much dreaded by the Bosjeſmen, that they never ventured to plunder the diſtricts where ſhe took up her abode; and he adds, that, by threatening them with her vengeance, ſhe often compelled them to reſtore the goods they had ſtolen. Theſe circumſtances appear to me of ſufficient importance, to invalidate, either the truth of Vaillant's narrative, or the accuracy of his obſervation. Indeed it is not with the moſt favourable ideas of his accuracy, that we are impreſſed by the peruſal of his travels. Even in his favourite ſcience, Zoology, we find that he diſclaims minuteneſs of ſtudy, and he frequently expatiates upon the diſcoveries which he might have accompliſhed, had he been a more ſkilful Botaniſt, or a more expert Chymiſt; and this at the very time, when he is inveighing againſt the authors of ſyſtems, with that flippant affectation of wiſdom which characterizes the writings of the modern *soi-diſant* philoſophers. Indeed it is utterly impoſſible to admire, either the wiſdom or the philoſophy of a traveller, who ſo palpably miſtakes the luſt of novelty for the deſire of ſtudying nature; who, while he idly ſtraggles among the rocks of Caffraria, exults over the ſimple natives, becauſe, forſooth, they are neither acquainted with the ſize, figure, or motion of the earth on which they walk, nor with thoſe of the ſun and heavenly bodies, which roll over their ſtupid heads.

But it is probable, that before Vaillant viſited the Hottentots, the rude mockery of the Dutch coloniſts had induced theſe barbarous hordes to conceal their religious opinions and ceremonies more carefully than in the days of Kolben and the early voyagers. The fact is poſitively aſcertained with regard to their ancient veneration for the inſect, the *Mantis*. In the hiſtories of barbarous tribes, and colonial ſettlements, numerous inſtances of inſolent mockery of ſavage religion occur. Carver relates, that the dread of ridicule has induced the Naudoweſſie Indians, to diſſemble both their religious opinions and ceremonies, and conceal them from the American coloniſts. Thus far the maxim, ſo triumphantly repeated, completely fails, "That the ſimpler the creed of any nation is, it is the eaſier to get acquainted with it." In many inſtances, accidental queſtions have elucidated the religion of barbarous tribes, when direct inquiries have entirely failed. Such is the circumſtance related by Meares, in his voyage to Nootka Sound. "We had, for ſome time, no reaſon for ſuppoſing, that the Indians had an idea of a Deity, till we explained to them, the cauſe of our ſuſpenſion from labour on Sunday; and, we would have departed in total ignorance, as to any principle of their faith, if a boy had not told us a ſtory, when enquiring concerning the diſcovery of copper, and the admiration in which it was held by them." The legend which Meares relates is indeed only fit for a boy to tell, and ſeems neither to have been underſtood by the auditors, nor to have much connection with the ſubject which it was introduced to illuſtrate. It relates to an old man who entered the Sound in the days of their anceſtors in a canoe entirely formed of copper, who told them, that he came from the ſky; that their country ſhould one day be deſtroyed, when they would all be killed, and riſe again to live in the place whence he came. This old man was killed by the Indians, who ſeized his ance of copper, and de-

derived their fondneſs for that metal from this ſource. It is probable, that the creed of theſe Indians may be very obſcure and indiſtinct; but that they have ſome religion, however ſedulouſly they conceal it, is apparent from another fact. Captain Dixon, in his voyage to the N. W. coaſt of America, relates that one of the Indian Chiefs, from the mention of the ſun in converſation, took occaſion to inform him, that both Indians and Whites derived their origin from that luminary, and returned thither after death. I ſhall only ſelect another inſtance of the difficulty of obtaining acquaintance with the religious belief of ſavage tribes. The crew of the Antelope, who were wrecked on the Pelew Iſlands, could not diſcover that the natives had any idea of religion, as they never obſerved any place appropriated to religious obſervances, nor ſaw any ceremony performed which had the appearance of public worſhip; though they imagined they recognized the veſtiges of divination, and perceived the traces of a belief in a Being which cauſed misfortunes. But that theſe rude tribes had tolerably correct ideas of religion, appears from a converſation between Captain Wilſon and Lee Boo, when the latter had been ſome time in England. When Captain Wilſon told this child of nature, that prayers were ſaid at church to make men good, ſo that when they died and were buried, they might live again above the ſky. Lee Boo with great earneſtneſs replied, "all ſame—Pelew;—bad men ſtay on earth—good men go into ſky—become very beautiful." And accompanied theſe words with a fluttering motion of his fingers.

(*To be continued.*) N

To the Editor of the Scots Magazine.

Sir,

Since the publication of Mr Laing's ingenious Eſſay on the authenticity of Oſſian, the attention of the public has been a good deal directed to the inveſtigation of that intereſting and curious ſubject. By literary men, unacquainted with Gaelic, the ſubject is generally conſidered as decided in the negative. To this deciſion, however, few perſons who underſtand the original language in which theſe poems were compoſed, and who, at the ſame time, are intimately acquainted with the hiſtory, the manners, and the habits of the Scotiſh Highlanders, are diſpoſed to ſubmit. Since the inveſtigation of this ſubject, however, has been undertaken by the Highland Society, conſiderable light may be expected to be thrown upon the queſtion, which however worthy of diſcuſſion, muſt be allowed to be involved in much obſcurity, from the deficiency of preciſe and circumſtantial evidence. Having made various inquiries concerning this ſubject, in the courſe of a ſhort tour through the Weſt Highlands, in the ſummer of 1800, among others, I received the following letter, which, from ſome minute information which it contains, may perhaps be agreeable to ſome of your readers. The queries which were tranſmitted to the ingenious and candid writer, were chiefly of the following kind. "Is not the beauty of ſtile, which the Gaelic poems are gene-

rally ſaid to poſſeſs, more imaginary than real? and may not the opinion be aſcribed to the influence of early aſſocations imperceptibly affecting the taſte? a circumſtance ſometimes obſervable in the moſt ardent admirers of traditionary poetry in the Borders of Scotland. Though the ſentiments of Gaelic poems be delicate, is not the ſtile rude, like that of Scotiſh ſongs? Are the heroic and traditionary ballads, in the Iriſh dialect, diſtinguiſhable by their ſtile, from the poems aſcribed to Oſſian? Are the traditionary poems of Strathglaſs, Iriſh, or Gaelic? Do the Highlanders repeat the Iriſh poems without confounding the two dialects? Does the Iriſh, or the modern Gaelic, approach neareſt the language of Oſſian? Do the name of Swaran and Loda occur in any Gaelic poem? Are perſonifications of the ſun, moon, and other objects of nature common in Gaelic poetry? Is any fragment of Gaelic poetry preſerved which equals in beauty the addreſs to the ſun, the fall of Balclutha, &c. in MacPherſon's tranſlation?" If any of your correſpondents, who may underſtand Gaelic, can give any additional elucidations of theſe queries, it will highly oblige

An Occasional Reader.

Jan. 17. 1802.

Samalaman, *Nov.* 24. 1800.

Sir,

I was favoured with yours laſt week, and ſoon afterward ſaw Mr M. of D. whoſe recommendation indeed, was quite unneceſſary to me; after peruſal of your letter, which contained more than a ſufficient apology, for addreſſing a perſon unknown to you. I am ſorry at the ſame time, to inform you, that I am not the proper perſon for conveying information and conviction, relative to Oſſian's authenticity, into the minds of thoſe, who have no knowledge of the language of our anceſtors. I left the country very young; when I returned home, I could not ſpeak one regular ſentence of the language I had firſt learned; and before I returned, what remained of the Gaelic manuſcripts, and had eſcaped the ravage of time, had been moſtly collected by MacPherſon and others: ſo that I had acceſs to ſee none that could be called with propriety, ancient poems, but in print alone. Notwithſtanding theſe diſadvantages, and many others, I ſhall ſtate, in anſwer to your queries, what occurs to me at the moment; as I have few leiſure hours to make the ſubject of your inquiry the object of my attention.

Your idea of the imperceptible influence of imagination over memory, illuſtrated by your own experience, and knowledge of the ſongs of the warlike Borderers, which you admired in your younger days, but condemned in a more mature age, is of credit to you, as it does not imply a national impoſture, though it cannot affect a Highlander, who knows the Gaelic, when he can oppoſe it by a matter of fact. But how is it poſſible to drive an Engliſh or a Scotiſh ſceptic, who is ignorant of the Gaelic, from his entrenchments againſt conviction? One would imagine, that Dr Blair's Diſſertation on the Poems of Oſſian, and his appendix might have had ſome weight with them; but as it has not, the arguments on which they ground their incredulity ſhould be refuted. Your negative argument may be weakened thus by another negative one: How can you draw an exact compariſon between the Borderers, ſince the

the Anglo-Saxon invaſion and the Highlanders? the former were in a continual ſtate of war, while the latter enjoyed ſome peace among themſelves, and liſtened with eaſe, and pleaſure, to the charming ſongs of their bards. On what grounds can it be affirmed, that either the Borderers and Highlanders, who exiſted for ſome hundred years backward, were comparable to the heroes of Fingal's age? And here is ſomething poſitive againſt your Hypotheſis. Read the ſpeech of a Caledonian General, tranſmitted to us by a Roman hiſtorian: Is it totally barbarous? But it is, you will ſay, poliſhed by Roman eloquence; though this were true, ſtill it ſhews you, what idea the Romans had of the Caledonians; what does Cæſar ſay in his account of the Druids of Gaul. "Diſciplina in Britannia reperta, atque inde in Galliam tranſlata exiſtimatur, et nunc qui diligentius eam rem cognoſcere volunt, plerumque illo diſcendi cauſa, proficiſcuntur." Does it not follow, that the ſource of education was then reckoned better in this iſland, than in Gaul? and from what we know, does it not follow, that a degeneracy has taken place ſince that period? Of this degeneracy Oſſian complains in his own time, when he was obliged to dwell among men of "little ſouls,"; which might be owing to the deſtruction of the order of the Druids, an event that happened in Trathal's time, who was grandfather to Fingal. At the ſame time, I am not of the opinion, that Cæſar hints, That the Druidical inſtitution went from Britain to Gaul. I rather think, that the Celtic nations, once according to Plinius, maſters of Europe, from the river Oby in Ruſſia, to Cape Finiſterre of Gallicia in Spain, were in Gaul, as in other parts of the continent, more ſubject to commotions and revolutions, and leſs able to preſerve the primary inſtitution of the Druidical order, than the Britiſh, who, from their ſituation, were leſs liable to viciſſitudes of human affairs, and more able, of courſe, to preſerve among themſelves their firſt traditions; as being then unmixed with foreigners, and leſs diſturbed by powerful neighbours; which was not the caſe in after times. I believe the Druidical order to have been the firſt that ever exiſted for inſpiring real cool courage, contempt of death, and all the pagan virtues that nature, cultivated by art, could ſuggeſt, without the aſſiſtance of revelation. The Pagan and Chriſtian Caledonians loſt, in their reſpective times, two great ſources of education; the former, the Druidical order, of which the bards only remained, and the latter, the eſtabliſhment of Iona, from which came the moſt learned men of Scotland, till it was deſtroyed by the reformation. I have not ſeen Mr Laing's Diſſertation againſt the authenticity of Oſſian's poems; but by ſuch as have ſeen it, I am told it is not unanſwerable. I cannot conceive how it could be otherwiſe; but I eaſily conceive that a very able genius may loſe himſelf, when he ventures to treat a ſubject to which he is partly a ſtranger, while he may very eaſily dazzle others like himſelf, whoſe knowledge is inadequate to the ſubject, and cannot embrace every ſide of the queſtion. It is a cauſe of very great regret, that error, at times, finds as able advocates as truth. You wiſh the report, that I can repeat ſome of the original of Oſſian's poems, to be confirmed by my own affirmation. The report is true; but more than I can repeat, has been already publiſhed by MacPherſon, in his firſt edi- of the ſeventh book of Temora; and by Smith, whoſe collection contains Gaelic poems, of which a modern Highlander, could no more be

the

the author, then a modern Greek could compoſe the Illiad. As to your other queries, the poems I have heard repeated in Strathglaſs, were a mixture of what you mention; a little of Oſſian, but more of latter Iriſh compoſitions, which were more eaſily underſtood by the vulgar, than the ſublime poetry of Oſſian. The dialect was generally pretty correct, as far as I was a judge of the Iriſh, but very inferior to Oſſian's Gaelic, and even inferior to our own, which comes much nigher Oſſian's, than the Iriſh.—Swaran's name was unknown to me, till I ſaw it in MacPherſon's tranſlation; but the name of Garve, ſon to Starno, *Garbh Mac Stairn*; was very familiar to me, but I know that MacPherſon, in his tranſlation, was not very ſcrupulous relative to the change of names, when he thought the changed name would anſwer better in the Engliſh tranſlation; he calls the king of the iſland of rocks, the king of the iſland of Craca, from *crag* in the Gaelic, which ſignifies rock. I have not ſeen any manuſcripts of great antiquity, but I have been taught by one, who told he had ſeen ancient manuſcripts; and who could repeat Oſſian's poems very well, and uſed to be laughed at by gentlemen of the Low country, for comparing Oſſian to Homer and Virgil; till M'Pherſon's tranſlation of Oſſian's poems appeared, when they changed their opinion relative to what the old gentleman uſed to advance. Relative to this laſt aſſertion, you may conſult my friend Mr Charles Maxwell, Blackfriar's Wynd, Edinburgh, who, if his memory do not fail, may confirm what I have ſaid concerning this perſon, who was the old and venerable Mr John Farquharſon, ſon to Mr Farquharſon of Inverie. It is my opinion, that the Iriſh character was not current among the common Highlanders; and that very few of them could either read or write it, though I am inclined to think, that it was made uſe of by the Iriſh themſelves, ſoon after the introduction of Chriſtianity, as well as by ſome few of their correſpondents in Scotland. The traditionary poems have been preſerved by the bards, and ſuch as have been taught by them, which can be no myſtery to a Highlander that knows any thing of the cuſtoms of his native country, before the year 1715. The addreſſes to the ſun, moon, wind, &c. are found in poems, that are not aſcribed to Oſſian, and in which no veſtige of Chriſtianity is to be ſeen; but equal in beauty to his addreſſes to the ſun and moon I have not ſeen. The delicate ſentiments and images, "avec les idées tres recherchées" of MacPherſon's Oſſian, are found in ſome other traditionary poems, but whether they be of equal merit with thoſe pointed out by you, is more than I would venture to decide: though ſome ſentences and paſſages of them are moſt beautiful, yet there are in the parts of Oſſian's works you mention, ſomething that ſurpaſſes, in my conception, any thing that I ever read in a Pagan author. The name of Loda was not unknown in the Highlands, as a foreign deity, but little known now: the adorers of Loda were called the ſons of Loda. It is likewiſe known by another name leſs ancient, *Judin*, which comes very nigh Odin. It is my real opinion, that the Celtic nation had no gods at all, but what they received in courſe of time from their neighbours; if you except the ſpirits of the wind, which they did not adore as ſupreme beings. Oſſian in the poem of *Conn*, makes Fingal ſuperior to the ſpirit of Loda, of which he gives a moſt awful diſcription. *Cath-Loda*, I have only ſeen in MacPherſon's tranſlation, but I do not ſee why the authenticity of it

it ſhould be called in queſtion, as it might be a natural conſequence of the moving ſtory of *Cathula*, the original of which, I have ſeen. Whether MacPherſon has made any changes in, or additions to any part of Oſſian's poems, cannot be eaſily decided, till the whole original be publiſhed, which I am told is ſoon to take place: but that he is not the author of what I have ſeen of the original, I infer from the apparent impoſſibility of his having from himſelf, the expreſſions and ideas of the original; from the vaſt inferiority of the tranſlation to the original, from his want of comprehenſion of the ſenſe of the original, at times. Take an inſtance of the two laſt aſſertions: Fingal, B. III. "Be thou a ſtream of many tides againſt the foes of thy people, but like the gale that moves the graſs to thoſe who aſk thine aid." The more literal tranſlation of this paſſage is, "Be thou like the ſurge of a winter ſpring-tide current, impelling its collected ſtreams againſt the foes of thy people, but like a feeble, tepid, mild ſummer blaſt to thoſe who aſk thine aid:" Here, in MacPherſon's tranſlation, the idea of the ſtrength of a ſpring-tide over a neap-tide, that of a winter ſpring-tide over a ſummer ſpring-tide, and the oppoſition between ſummer and winter is totally loſt, with a cluſter of moſt beautiful epithets in the Gaelic, whoſe very ſound in the original is expreſſive of their meaning. In the beginning of the ſeventh book of Temora, the tranſlation is, the ſun's eagle eye; whereas, in the original it is, *iullan ſhuil ghreine na ſpear*, that is, the low eye of the ſun, traveller of the expanſe. MacPherſon took *uillan* low, to be *uillar* eagle, probably from his ignorance of the former word, ſimilar in orthography to the latter, though different in the ſenſe. But I have, I fear, exhauſted your patience. I am ſorry, I was abſent when you was in this country, and meant to call on me; for in a converſation, theſe matters might be much better explained with leſs trouble to us both, and more ſatisfaction.—

I am,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble Servt.

JOHN CHISHOLM.

N. B. I repeated your expreſſion, "les idées tres recherchées," taking it for granted, that your meaning was, that they might appear ſo to us; but I am convinced, they were quite natural, and far from being "recherchées" to the author.

J. C.

For the Scots Magazine.

ACCOUNT of the ROMANCE of the SEVEN SAGES.

THE marvellous tales of tradition, are not yet ſo much neglected in Scotland, that the ſtory of the Seven Sages has loſt its popularity. Every boy and every girl has heard of the *Seven Sleepers*, and of the *Seven Wiſe Men*, almoſt as frequently as of the ſeven planets, the ſeven notes of the muſical gamut, or the ſeven days of the week. But, perhaps, it is not known to all my readers, that theſe ſtories which have amuſed their infancy, and perhaps called into action the firſt rudiments of thinking and reflection, formed the claſſics of a leſs refined

fined period, and were ſung to the harp of ancient bards, before the knights and the dames of Chivalry. In the *Geſta Romanorum*, a collection of ſtories of every age, written in a barbarous Latin ſtile, and accommodated to the manners of Chivalry, the hiſtory of the Seven Sages holds a conſpicuous place. In the Auchinleck MS. an invaluable collection of the romances of Chivalry, a copy of the SEVEN SAGES is preſerved, which, though imperfect both at beginning and end, conſiſts of above 2600 verſes. The popularity of this ancient Romance, in Scotland, is evinced by its tranſlation, "out of proſe into Scots metter by John Roland of Dalkeith," printed at Edinburgh by the heirs of Andro Hart in 1631. In the prologue to this curious work, Roland, who ſeems to have been as much elevated with vanity and conceit, as he was utterly devoid of poetical powers, relates, that he tranſlated it at the requeſt of "one of his *Ants* *, a proper wench, whoſe *pyot* tongue, I ſhould ſay *port* tongue, might well ſuffice to preach in barne or byre." He ſeems to have been quite unacquainted with the ancient poetical Romance, mentioning the ſtory as a "Role,"

Made an compilde by the wiſe Sages ſeven,
Who were, that time, moſt ſapient under heaven.

For naturall wit, they are all holden in plaine,
The ſpringing well, and onelie freſh fountaine,
The perfect ground, and roote originall,
Of this ſtorie now following but laine:
Therefore, myſelf, as now I am conſtraine,
It to tranſlat in our tongue naturall,
Where I it fand into plaine proſe at all,
Without colour or teete; now I againe,
In rurall ryme, to ſet it foorth I ſhall.

This paſſage, which will be conſidered as extremely unpropitious to the author's poetical reputation, may nevertheleſs be regarded as a fair ſpecimen of the work; and the author, to uſe his own alluſion, has been very careful not to throw pearls before ſwine. The moſt curious paſſage in the work, is perhaps, the following ſtanza, which contains ſome additionary names to the liſt of Scotiſh literary men:

In court that time was good *Sir David Lyndesay*,
In vulgar tongue he bure the bell that day,
To make meeter, right cunning and and expert;
And maiſter *John Ballentine*, ſooth to ſay,
Make him marrow to David well we may;
And for the third, maſter *William Stewart*,
To make in Scots, hee knew right well the airt.
Biſhop Durie, ſometime of Galloway,
For his pleaſure, ſometime, would take their part.

Among other reaſons of his neglect of poetical diction, Roland alleges the diſlike of his readers for "high and curious terms;" but another reaſon which he hints at, is much more ſatisfactory,

Another cauſe I wot right well yee ken,
For to bring but, it's ill, that's not there ben;
Nor is there none I know in all this towne,
Except he haue it, that can put on a gowne:
Of a toome tunne, none can draw out licour,
Nor of a foole to make a wiſe doctour.

THE beginning of the ancient Romance is wanting in the MS., but Roland

* Shakeſpeare uſes this word in the ſame ſenſe in the WINTER'S TALE, Act IV. Scene II.

"Are ſummer ſongs for me and my aunts."

Roland commences his SEVEN SAGES with ſome reflections on the ancient fame of Rome, and its declenſion under the eccleſiaſtical government. He declaims againſt "the papiſtes and their foule marchandice," who, he ſays,

——— will cauſe a pounde of molten leade,
Bring them againe the weight of gold ſo red;
And cauſe the hippes of a dead yow or ſkinne,
Abſolue you all of your moſt deadlie ſinne;
Incontinent in heauen up to be brought,
Contrare God's will, whether he would, or nought.

Such a ſeries of reflections, though very natural after the Reformation, could not have eaſily occurred in a popular poem of the age of the Romance, which probably aſcends nearly to the reign of Edward III. Roland then proceeds to relate, how Pontianus, the Emperor of Rome, had an Empreſs named Clara, who bore him "a knave child," named Diocleſiane. In the manuſcript Romance, however, the name of the Emperor is Diocletian. At the period when the young man attained the age of ſeven years, his mother fell ſick, and "her natural debt compleeted of dead," in ſpite of all the "dogne doctours, phyſicians and philoſophers, cunning men and mediciners, chirurgians, and potingars and practicians ſuttle an ſlie,

That daylie deales with phlebotomie."

This event baniſhes all merrineſs and minſtrel mirth from the court, which wears "dule weede" for a year and day. But, the queen being endowed with a preſcient mind, and perceiving that the alternatives of death or dumbneſs were fated to her ſon, exacts from the king a promiſe, that he ſhould never be ſubjected to the controul of a mother-in-law, but ſhould be educated at a diſtance from court, under the direction of ſages ſelected for the purpoſe. The emperor immediately ſends for the ſeven wiſeſt men in Chriſtendom to Rome. The names of the firſt ſix wiſe men are, Pantillas, Lentulus, Craton, Malquidrack, Joſephus, and Cleopas; but the name of the ſeventh is not mentioned.

THEY harangue the Emperor in their turns; and with the concluſion of the oration of the ſeventh ſage, the manuſcript romance commences.

For the mede of mi ſeruiſe,
Tac me thi ſonne to loke and lore,
Of mi ſeruiſe kep i namore;
And i the wille thonke vnne;
And al the clergie vnderſtonne,
Ich wille into his bodi dizt,
Bothe bi dai, and bi nizt.

Dioclician the maiſtres herde,
He ſtrok his berd, and ſchok his zerde,
And on hem made milde chere,—

and, after divers other tokens of ſatisfaction, commits his ſon to their charge. The ſages conduct the young Prince to the *Conſiſtory*, which, our author aſſures us, was a 'ſtede' in Rome, and after conſulting concerning the conduct proper to be adopted in his tuition, they reſolve

That he ſcholde nowt in Rome be laue;
For burgeis, maiden, other knaue,
Mizt him in ſom riot ſette
That alle his lore he ſcholde lette.

This danger, even in modern times, incident to the education of Princes, they reſolve to avoid, by bringing up the Prince in a ſplendid caſtle, ſituated on the banks of the Tiber, in a grove of all kinds of trees, at ſome diſtance from the city. The caſtle was accommodated with ſeven chambers for the lectures of the different ſages, and a magnificent hall

in the centre, adorned with curious paintings and ſculptures,

Ther inne was paint of *Donet* thre pars,
And eke alle the ſeuen ars:
The firſte ſo was Gramarie,
Muſike, and Aſtronomie,
Geometre, and ars Miſtike,
Rettorike, and eke Fiſike.

Attracted, no doubt, by theſe and ſimilar delectable devices, the young Prince applies to his ſtudies, with ſuch uncommon avidity, that before the end of the ſixth year he is able to contend with his maſters. At this period, his learning and genius are ſubjected to a ſingular trial, the propriety of which it is extremely difficult to diſcover.

Leues thai tok ſextene,
Of iuy that were grene;
Vnder ech ſtapel of his bed,
That he niſte, four thai hid.

The young Prince, whoſe intellect and power of obſervation had, no doubt, been aſtoniſhingly ſharpened by the proceſs to which they had been ſubjected, begins, in the morning, to ſtare around him with aſtoniſhment, proteſting—

Other Ich am of wine drownke,
Other the firmament is ſlonke,
Other weren is the grounde,
The thiknes of four leues rounde.

Were ſuch an unaccountable accident to befal any of our learned or wiſe men, in theſe degenerate days, the malicious world would unqueſtionably impute it to the firſt of theſe cauſes. In Roland, by whom the outline of the ſtory is very accurately followed, the experiment is made with an olive leaf inſerted under each corner of the bed, and the Prince declares, that he had imagined in his ſleep,

That the roofe tree of all this whole maſſoun,
Unto the earth was quite declined downe;
And then again, in twinkling of our eyes,
It was uplifted an hundred thouſand grees.

A circumſtance which would rather have indicated a morbid and erroneous ſenſibility, than that natural acuteneſs which it was the object of the Sages to diſcover. After this trial, which ſeems intended to indicate the accuracy neceſſary in Aſtrological ſcience, the chief object of purſuit in the middle ages, the Sages conclude, that the Prince is maſter of the ſeven ſciences; and he is conducted to the court of the Emperor his father.

H.

(*To be continued in our next.*)

For the Scots Magazine.

STRICTURES on the LIFE and WRITINGS of the Celebrated BARON HALLER.

To the Editor of the Scots Magazine.

SIR,

IN ſtudying the phenomena of diſeaſes, the phyſician may now ſeek for knowledge in conterminous fields of obſervation, without incurring the danger of being betrayed into thoſe errors,

errors, which in former times, disfigured and disgraced the science of medicine. The student of this most interesting and important science, a science which has for its object so grand an essential to the happiness of the human race, as the health of the human system, may, in our day, be much at his ease as to the apprehension, that these absurd and visionary theories may again become current, which accounted for the vital energy, for the causes of diseases, and for the operation of remedies by one fictitious hypothesis, and explained all the phenomena of the animal economy, on the gratuitous supposition, that within the frame of man, there are going on processes of digestion, of fermentation, and of effervescence, similar to those produced by the chemist, while operating on inanimate matter in his laboratory.

The period at length has arrived, when medical men, no longer enlisting themselves under the banner of any one sect; no longer, from a false veneration to a great name, attaching themselves exclusively and obstinately to his tenets, have felt the necessity of thinking for themselves, of examining and comparing all the theories, which have been hitherto advanced on the subject; of illuminating their own particular department, by light borrowed from all the other sciences; and, more especially, of cultivating with assiduity every branch of literature from which medicine can derive any collateral aid, or its phenomena receive a rational explanation.

Among those where labours and example gave this fortunate direction to medical inquirers, and established the science itself on so respectable and so rational a foundation, stands pre-eminent the name of the illustrious Baron Haller, a man whose gigantic genius and indefatigable industry could only be equalled by his sublime piety, and by his singular modesty. He is undoubtedly the father of the doctrine of Excitability; which, although by no means as yet extended and consolidated into a complete system; yet, with all its imperfections, and however much it has been decried by people ignorant of its nature, or attentive only to its abuse, certainly leads to more philosophical conclusions relative to the laws of the animal economy, both in its sound and diseased state, than any other theory which has hitherto been offered to the medical world.

I am informed you intend to devote a department of your Miscellany to articles of interesting biography. The following biographical sketch is therefore sent for insertion; and the celebrity of its subject will, no doubt, secure it a place in the Scots Magazine. A biographical notice of Dr Haller will, I am persuaded, be regarded as an acceptable present by the public in general; because, a retrospective view of his immense acquirements cannot but suggest a reflection on what the human mind can accomplish by due cultivation, and by persevering diligence.

But, in furnishing this article for your Magazine, I address myself more especially to a particular class of your readers. Partly from design, and partly from the accident of local situation, I have been led to cultivate some acquaintance with medical men and medical books. Inspecting the treatises on anatomy, which are, from time to time, offered to the public, with all the pomp of originality, I find reason to accede to the wise man's aphorism, "That there's nothing new under the Sun;" and indeed, I am sometimes tempted to join in the indignant exclamation of the poet, *O imitatores, servum pecus!* These compilers liberally draw from the exu-

berant ſtore-houſe of Haller's genius, without acknowledging the ſource whence they derive the materials of their volumes. Haller's works are tranſlated; his arrangements are adopted; and his deſcriptions minutely copied. Now, Sir, a ſuccinct account of this great man, and of the more prominent features of his life, may probably induce gentlemen, who are in the courſe of anatomical or medical inquiries, to repair to the excellent original himſelf for inſtruction, inſtead of reſting contented with gleaning information from his ſervile and ungrateful imitators. And it muſt be confeſſed, that among the young gentlemen engaged in the ſtudy of medicine in this place, there are many who are not duly acquainted with the phyſiological and anatomical labours of the incomparable Haller; perhaps, therefore, the peruſal of this ſuperficial ſketch of his life, accompanied as we go along, with ſome curſory remarks on his writings, may diſpoſe ſuch to enlarge their intimacy with an author whoſe immortal works furniſh an inexhauſtible fund of ſolid pleaſure and of valuable improvement.

Albert Haller was born on the 18th of May 1708, in the city of Berne, one of the *[illegible]* Swiſs Cantons, his father, Emanuel Haller, ſtudied the law, and for ſome time practiſed as a barriſter with conſiderable reputation in his native city. Not many years after our author's birth, he removed from Berne, and obtained an official ſituation in Baden, another city of the ſame Canton.

We have heard much of ſurpriſing proofs of early genius, diſplayed by perſons, who, in more advanced periods of their lives, became conſpicuous for their literary attainments. Of theſe details, ſome muſt, no doubt, be received *cum grano ſalis*; but, certain it is, that Haller, while yet an infant, aſtoniſhed his friends by his precocious genius, and intenſe application. Scarcely had he reached his fifth year, when he began to commit to writing, every word which the intercourſe of the day had impreſſed upon his memory; his proficiency in the learned languages was ſo very remarkable, that, in his eleventh year, he tranſlated excerpts from Greek authors, in hiſtory, poetry, and general literature; and, at this early period compoſed, for his own uſe, a Chaldaic grammar, and a Greek and Hebrew lexicon. Much about this period, he exhibited a ſignal proof of his attachment to literary purſuits; he extracted from Bayle and Moreri, an hiſtorical dictionary compriſing biographical notices of more than two thouſand remarkable perſonages; and he wrote a ſatire in Latin verſe, in which he expoſed the ſullen diſpoſition and the capricious humour of his preceptor, Abraham Baillodz.

Acquisitions ſo extenſive, and a diligence ſo reſolute, in a boy of ſuch tender years, might well have challenged the fond approbation and the patronage of his family; we find, however, that this growing taſte for polite literature, particularly his inclination to poetry, the faſcinating charms of which, he was apprehenſive, would allure him from ſeverer ſtudies, excited the diſpleaſure of his father, who had deſtined him for his own profeſſion, and who regarded his multifarious purſuits as too deſultory and ſuperficial, and too little a-kin to thoſe profound inveſtigations, and minute details with which the ſtudent of law muſt be familiar, if he would wiſh to attain to ſcientific eminence in his profeſſion. But neither the repeated remonſtrances of his father, nor the arbitrary admonitions of his maſter, were effectual in confining his literary purſuits within

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the limits of *legal* inquiry, or in ſuppreſſing his ardent deſire for general information.

Such was the plan on which young Haller's education was conducted until his thirteenth year; when, on his father's death, he was removed to the public ſchool at Berne. The claſs to which he was attached, required a ſtage of progreſs far ſuperior to what might be expected from his boyiſh years. But his talents proved adequate, nay, even ſuperior to the taſk required of him; for he performed, in Greek, the exerciſes, which his maſter exacted from him, and which his claſsfellows brought forward in the Latin tongue.

In the year 1723, his relations permitted him to accompany a young friend to Bienne, with the view of being initiated in philoſophy by his companion's father, who was a celebrated phyſician of that place. But his new maſter being a bigotted adherent to Deſcartes' airy ſpeculations, young Haller ſoon relinquiſhed that logic and philoſophy, which fettered his genius, without enlarging his knowledge; and turning aſide from the rugged path which his preceptor pointed out to him, expatiated at large in the pleaſant fields of hiſtory, of poetry, and of general literature.

During his reſidence at Bienne, Haller was in the habit of commenting on the books which he peruſed, and of tranſcribing ſuch paſſages as, for novelty of matter or method, attracted his attention; a practice which he continued during the future period of his life; and to which, as we ſhall find in the ſequel of his hiſtory, the world is indebted for much intereſting information, on various ſubjects. At this period alſo, his genius awakened to poetic enthuſiaſm by the romantic ſcenery around him, poured itſelf forth in various effuſions, epic, lyric, and drammatic: So much indeed had this favourite ſtudy engroſſed his attention, that on a fire breaking out in the houſe where he reſided, he ruſhed into his apartment, and, at the hazard of his life, reſcued his poetry from the flames, leaving his other manuſcripts to their fate, without a murmur at the loſs ſuſtained by their deſtruction. At a more advanced period of his life, when maturer age had refined his judgment, he was frequently heard to ſay, that he had hazarded his life for the preſervation of thoſe compoſitions, which he then thought the fineſt productions of human genius; but which, at a future period, he conſigned to merited deſtruction, as unworthy of his pen.

It was to the period of his life under review, that Haller alluded, when he compared himſelf to a wild plant, which is left to grow without pruning; and to this very circumſtance may his future preeminence, in a great meaſure, be aſcribed, as it conſtituted that broad baſis upon which the ſtructure of his univerſal knowledge was afterwards reared.

We have already noticed, that his father deſtined him for the ſtudy of law; but his ardent and active ſpirit was ill calculated for progreſs in a profeſſion, which would have circumſcribed the freedom of his inquiries within limits ſo narrow, which entirely reſted on ſtatute, and precedent, and authority; and which, to uſe his own appoſite alluſion, from his favourite Horace, in a letter to his friend M. Bonnet of Geneva, compelled him *jurare in verba magiſtri.*

And, regarding the admonitions of his new maſter, although he had not liſtened to them with a deference ſo ſubmiſſive, as to ſuffer his genius to be fettered by that narrow, illiberal philoſophy, which the phyſician of Bienne ſo eagerly recom-

commended, and so strongly enforced; yet does it appear, that in embracing the profession of medicine, he was in a great measure determined by his advice; although he was no doubt reconciled to his new pursuit, from the consideration of that variety of literary inquiries which it embraces, and which would give scope to the zeal and activity of his capacious mind.

No sooner had Haller dedicated himself to physic, than he adopted a more regular and systematic plan of study than he had hitherto pursued. For this purpose he repaired, in 1723, to the University of Tubingen, where he prosecuted his medical investigations, with that indefatigable diligence which he perpetually exerted under the Professors Elias, Camerarius, and Duverney. The former initiated him in those sound principles of natural philosophy, whose characteristic tenet is first to doubt and then to believe; and which are equally remote from credulity, on the one hand, and from scepticism on the other. From the prelections of Duverney, he acquired the rudiments of botany; a science the boundaries of which he afterwards so greatly enlarged; and, under the same teacher, his progress in anatomy was so rapid and so conspicuous, that Duverney, from the perusal of various dissertations from his pen, predicted his future pre-eminence in this fundamental branch of true medical knowledge. How fully these predictions were verified, will appear in the sequel of this narrative.

It is a curious fact, that, notwithstanding his strong attachment to these sciences, which continued steady and invariable through life, he acknowledges, that, at this period, his prosecution of them was *invitâ Minervâ*. He represents himself as studying anatomy, although he could not endure the cadaverous smell which assails the dissector's olfactory organs; and botany, although he was extremely short-sighted. During his residence at Tubingen, he exhibited a proof of his knowledge in Mineralogy, by refuting an error of Tournefort, who had ascribed to fossils a vegetative power.

One incident of his life falls here to be mentioned, as it exhibits the instructive lesson of a young man in the vigor of health, and with a high flow of animal spirits, reducing his passions into a subserviency to his reason, and to his principles. His social disposition, and the example of some of his companions, had betrayed him while studying at Tubingen, into a single act of intemperance. This solitary deviation into excess made so deep an impression upon a mind, equally enamoured of virtue, and susceptible of ingenuous shame, that he formed a resolution to abstain from wine, and to adopt, for the future, the most rigid abstemiousness and strictness of morals.

In the year 1725, Haller repaired to Leyden, attracted hither by the deserved celebrity of the immortal Boerhaave. A wider field of observation now opened to his view, and furnished him with more ample opportunities for displaying the mental acquisitions which he had already made, and for the further cultivation of his intellectual powers. His abilities and diligence soon attracted the attention of Boerhaave, who honoured him by a particular share of his countenance; and, by his example, and encouragement, fostered his growing predilection for botany. He took down his master's lectures, and his notes of the prelections on the institutions of medicine were so ample and so accurate, that they afterwards furnished materials for one of his most useful publications. He continued his

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anatomical ſtudies under Albinus, juſt then riſing into fame, and under the venerable Ruſych, who had carried the art of injecting anatomical preparations to ſuch unrivalled perfection. In the year 1726, he received his phyſician's diploma; and, on that occaſion, publiſhed his Inaugural diſſertation *De Ductu Salivali Coschoviziano.* F.

(*To be continued in our next.*)

To the Editor of the Scots Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING peruſed, with conſiderable attention, the new Edition of that curious work, "The Complaynt of Scotland;" I beg leave to trouble you with ſome obſervations which occurred to me at the moment.

The inductive evidence by which the Editor attempts to ſupport his opinion, that this work was compoſed by Sir David Lindſay of the Mount, does not appear to me quite ſatisfactory. Perhaps I have received an original bias in favour of the firſt opinion, which attributes that work to Sir James Inglis; but that opinion ſeems to be encumbered with feweſt difficulties. It is true, that Pinkerton, in his Hiſtory of Scotland, has mentioned James Inglis, who was denominated Sir, from being a dignified prieſt, who was ſecretary to Queen Margaret, afterwards Abbot of Culroſs, and was murdered by the Baron of Tulliallan in 1531; but this does not prove deciſively, that no other Sir James Inglis exiſted at that period.

THE deſign and doctrine of the Complaynt of Scotland does not ſeem to be in favour of the Reformation, and an alteration of the national religion; but is rather written in ſupport of the French intereſt in Scotland;—for rejecting the propoſed alliance and marriage between Mary and Edward;—and maintaining the war with England.

MACKENZIE, V. iii. p. 40. ſays, that Sir James Inglis, "upon the death of James V. joined with the French faction, in oppoſition to the pretended marriage betwixt the Infant-Queen of Scotland, and the Prince of Wales:"—So that his religious ſentiments were thoſe of the author of the Complaynt.

SIR DAVID LINDSAY'S writings were in favour of the Reformation, as appears from all his works. And Pinkerton aſſerts that he "was more the reformer of Scotland than John Knox; for he prepared the ground, and John only ſowed the ſeed."
Liſt of Poets, ap. Pinkerton's Maitland Poems.

AFTER the publication of Sir David's various treatiſes, dedicated to the king, and others, how could he have called this *tractit* (the Complaynt) "the firſt laubirs of his pen;" and addreſſed it, as ſuch, to the Queen-Regent, with whom he was not in favour.

In p. 131 of *the Preface to the Complaynt, the Elegy on the* Piper of Kilbarchan is aſcribed to Hamilton, but in the ſtatiſtical account of Kilbarchan, Vol. xvi. p. 491, it is aſcribed to Semple; as alſo in Crawford's hiſtory of Renfrewſhire, publiſhed by William Semple in 1782. p. 162. If you think theſe obſervations of ſufficient importance to inſert them in your miſcellany, they may be followed by others.

D. H.

LITERARY EXTRACTS AND NOTICES.

CHARACTER OF THE FRENCH ROMANCE, IN THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV.

From La Harpe's Lycée.

THE hiſtory of the human heart is exhibited in able Romances, but not in the earlieſt romances of our language. While our language was in a crude ſtate, and reckoned unworthy of being uſed in important works; the *Romance of the Roſe*, and others of that ſpecies, might have their utility; but I muſt confeſs, I could never bring myſelf to read them, nor even to peruſe the more modern *Aſtrea*, which had ſuch a prodigious reputation at the beginning of the ſeventeenth century. Some traits of expreſſive ſimplicity, ſome paſtoral images, which might pleaſe in the abſence of better models of compoſition; offer no compenſation for its tedious inſipidity, except to the philologiſt, the antiquary, and the etymologiſt, who love to dwell on the obſcure antiquities of our language, to inveſtigate our ancient dialect, and who think their patience richly rewarded, when they can cite a happy expreſſion, or trace the etymology of a word. Every one is pleaſed with his own purſuits; ſo much ſo that ſome of theſe antiquaries attempted to revive this obſolete ſtile in modern productions, to write in the eighteenth century, in the dialect of the twelfth, and to employ in romances of the preſent day, the ſtile of *The Fair Maguelone* and *Peter of Provence*. There are even ſome perſons who profeſs to diſcover vaſt genius in this kind of cento; but I, who do not underſtand ſuch refinement, perceive in it, only, an eaſy method of introducing a falſe taſte both in ſtile and ſentiment. I have not read, at leaſt, to a conclu-

ſion, either *Clelia* or *Cyrus*, which was ſo well ridiculed by Boileau; nor yet have I read the *Ariane* of Deſmarets, which is even inferior in merit, though it has not been inferior in reputation. The tedious romances of Scudery, procured her great fame; at leaſt till Boileau reduced them to their real ſtandard of merit. Portraits of living characters were then the rage; this lady has drawn all the celebrated characters of her time, under ancient names; and people were flattered to ſee themſelves enthrined in this gallery of portraits. M. Rambouillet appears under the name of Artenice, an appellation ſhe always retained, even in her funeral oration; and the ſolitaries of Port-Royal could not reſiſt the petty vanity of ſeeing themſelves repreſented in favourable colours in theſe fallacious productions, which at the ſame time offended their taſte, and blamed their rigorous Janſeniſm. They indulged themſelves with occaſional peruſals of theſe works, which they regarded as poiſon; though their tediouſneſs was the only poiſon they contained, and it is even probable that ſelf-love would mingle a little honey with this poiſon. The *moſt excellent* of this ſpecies of romance, if the word can be applied to a ſpecies of compoſition, which violates good taſte, is undoubtedly the *Cleopatra*; in ſpite of its enormous length, its everlaſting converſations, its deſcriptions that one ſkips over, its complication of twenty unconnected intrigues which no memory can retain, its dreadful battles which excite no terror, and which Madame Sevigné

Sevigné did not diſlike, its laughable re-appearances of characters, and its princeſſes which excite no compaſſion. With all theſe faults, which occur in an equal degree in the Caſſandra and Pharamond, Calprenede has fancy, his heroes have an air of courage, he preſents characters ſketched with boldneſs, and that of Artaban muſt have been popular, for it has paſſed into a proverb. It is true, that this very proverb ſhows the ridicule of exaggeration; but the writings of this author breathe a degree of heroiſm, though moſt frequently blended with extravagance, and a peruſal of them may be uſeful for tragic authors, provided they guard againſt the exceſs into which Crebillon fell, who was paſſionately fond of theſe romances, and has tranſferred a degree of their extravagance into his own compoſitions.

It is long ſince the heroines of all theſe romances, to whom the moſt reſpectful declaration of love was an affront, that could be pardoned only after years of expiation, have been objects of ridicule. But, nothing can compare with the *Polexander of Gomberville*, in five monſtrous volumes of 1000 or 1200 pages each; the exceſs of folly exhibited in which, is ſo ſingular, as to have induced me to give it a ſlight peruſal. Alcidiane the heroine of this immenſe work, is one of the moſt extraordinary beings ever conceived by the imagination of a writer. She is adored by all the monarchs in the world, and; from every corner of the earth, ambaſſadors flock to aſk her in marriage. Heroes who cannot aſpire to this honour, are contented with declaring themſelves her knights at the diſtance of five or ſix hundred leagues, breaking their lances in honour of her, and paying no attention to any other damſel, after having once looked on the portrait of Alcidiane. One would have ſuppoſed, that this ſpecies of homage was very inoffenſive, and that a lady muſt have been of a peculiar humour, to have taken umbrage at it. The princeſs, however, is highly offended: ſhe thinks it an inſult, that the Cham of Tartary, the King of Caſhmire, and the Sultans of India, ſhould preſume to admire her, though at ſo great a diſtance. In ſhort, to admire Alcidiane, even at the diſtance of one or two thouſand leagues, becomes a capital crime, except for Polexander the hero of the romance, to whom alone ſhe grants permiſſion to adore her; for, after all, the lady muſt have an adorer. In the quality of her knight, ſhe diſpatches him to all the courts around, to chaſtiſe the inſolent wretches who had dared to breathe their tender ſighs without her permiſſion; and thus Polexander performs the tour of the whole world, defying to combat every perſon he meets, and after wounding one, killing another, dethroning a third, taking a fourth priſoner, and exacting the promiſe of all, that they ſhould not have the impertinence to declare themſelves enamoured of this haughty beauty, he returns to Alcidiane, who condeſcends to honour him with a ſingle glance, but cannot, for a long period, accuſtom herſelf to the idea of marrying a man, after having been the death of ſo many. The poor hero is as much at a loſs as herſelf, and when he is married at laſt, has all the difficulty in the world to perſuade himſelf, that a mortal might be the huſband of Alcidiane, and that this huſband is his own proper perſon. But, when he aſcends to the apartment of his wife, his head is perfectly turned, and he requires two eſquires to ſupport him up ſtairs, his limbs fail him at every ſtep, and the romance terminates, when it is very uncertain whether he be dead or alive.

We have been imitators in every thing; in our faults as well as in our beauties. It is to the ardent and irregular imaginations of the nations of the eaſt and ſouth, who enjoyed the uſe of letters before us, that we owe that character of extravagance which prevails in our early romances. We imitated the Spaniards, who copied the Arabs. It is in the writings of the Arabs that we diſcover the originals of theſe princes, at one end of the world, enamoured of a picture, the original of which is at the other, and which ſometimes does not exiſt at all. Thus, in the Arabian Tales, a Prince ſearches the whole world for the object of a paſſion, inſpired by a picture, which after a great many years, he diſcovers to be the portrait of the Miſtreſs of Solomon. The extravagant gallantry of the Caſtilians and Arabs, theſe ſublime paſſions, theſe invincible Paladins, who dif-

diſpoſe of the fate of kings and empires, all theſe ideas, devoid of nature and probability, prevailed with abſolute ſway, in our literature, while the Spaniſh court gave the *ton* to Europe, and we adopted its faſhions, its entertainments, and its tourneys; for it is thus that the hiſtory of taſte is connected with that of manners. Theſe extravagancies, however, like all other errors, were originally founded on ſome degree of truth. The paſſion of love, among the Aſiatic and Southern nations, was accompanied with a degree of enthuſiaſm, which the chivalry of the weſt imitated, but did not equal; and which the ambitious imagination of our authors of romance, braved the charge of extravagance in order to ſurpaſs. As to heroes, the ſplendid actions of Du-Gueſclin in Spain, and of Warwick in England, who elevated and overturned the thrones of kings, at a period, when princes, devoid of ſtanding armies, and trains of artillery, depended more on perſonal character and the fate of war, gave an appearance of truth to the ſuppoſition of theſe adventurers, whom our romances repreſent as raiſing and dethroning kings, but under circumſtances diveſted of all probability. The temper of the court of Lewis XIV, during the youth of that prince, who was a little romantic in his diſpoſition, favoured at firſt this taſte for extravagant fiction: while the part which had frequently been performed by women, during the civil wars, and the all powerful influence they had obtained, accuſtomed the writers of romance to eſtimate ſo highly, the empire of a ſex that always commands, where it is not enſlaved. They exceeded the bounds of propriety, indeed, as is always the caſe in the infancy of writing; but ridicule ſoon expelled theſe heroic fopperies with which we were inundated. We had long imitated the Spaniſh writers: they had become our maſters, as the Italians were before them, when we borrowed from their romances, the ſubjects of our ſtories; and our love poems, with the exception of ſome fragments, breathed the affectation of Petrarch without his harmony and elegance. At laſt, Boileau and Racine taught us to imitate only nature and the ancients; and proved, that love was better depicted in twenty verſes of the Æneid of Virgil, than in all the romances of modern Europe.

The firſt of theſe romances which relates probable events in an elegant and intereſting manner, is Zaide; and it is the compoſition of a lady. It was natural that the native diſcriminating taſte, which is characteriſtic of women, whoſe minds have been cultivated, ſhould exhibit the firſt model of propriety. Nothing can be more original or intereſting, than the ſituation of Gonſalvo and Zaide, enamoured of each other in a deſart, ignorant of the language of each other, and each afraid leaſt the heart of the other ſhould be occupied by a prior paſſion. The incidents which this ſituation ſuggeſts, preſent a vivid and natural picture of the workings of paſſion. Though the reſt of the work is not quite ſo intereſting as this commencement, though the character of Alphonſo, ready to quarrel with his miſtreſs, and jealous of a lover deceaſed, is perhaps a little extravagant; yet, the ſpirit of the romance is preſerved, and it is always peruſed with pleaſure. *The Princeſs of Cleves*, another production of Madame de la Fayette is ſtill more pleaſing and affecting. Never was the conteſt between love and duty depicted with greater delicacy of colouring. It was reſerved for another lady, a century after her, to deſcribe with equal felicity, the conteſt between love and virtue. Madame de Tencin's *Count of Comminges*, may be regarded as the ſequel of the *Princeſs of Cleves*. From Madame de la Fayette, to proceed to Scarron, from Zaide to the *Comic Romance*, is to reſign the elegance of a ſelect party, for the coarſe humours of a tavern. But, humour though coarſe, always finds votaries; and, in this work, there is ſome of an excellent quality. The character of Rancune is ſarcaſtic, natural, and well delineated; and many chapters, particularly that of the *Boots*, diſplay much pleaſantry. The ſtile, though ſingular, is natural, and much purer than that of the other writings of this author. His novels, whether tranſlated from the Spaniſh, or imitations of their peculiar manner, contain only inſipid and weariſome intrigues, a thouſand times inferior to Ragotin. Ragotin is farcical, but he excites laugh-

laughter. His *Virgil Traveſtie* is a ſpecies of buffoonery, which becomes inſupportable, after the peruſal of a few pages. *Iodelet* and *D. Japhet*, are two diſguſting pieces, unworthy of the French ſtage. The *Comic Romance*, to ſpeak with propriety, is all that remains of Scarron; and theſe romances, which I have mentioned, are all that remain of the former century, for Gil Blas belongs to our own, and Madame de la Force, author of the *Secret Hiſtory of Burgundy*, and Madame d' Aulnoy, author of *Hippolitus Count of Douglas, a romance*, which, however, diſplays ſome fancy, are only imitators of Madame de la Fayette, and very inferior to their model in the powers of fancy, and in the graces of ſtile.

ON TALES.

From the Lycée of La Harpe.

THE wonders of Fairy, the Perſian *Peris*, the Arabian *Gins*, the power of genii and taliſmans, all theſe fictions of oriental theology, founded upon the belief of intermediate beings between God and Man, which, with ſome modifications, has been common to all nations; form the ground work of theſe oriental tales, the tranſlations, of which were the conſequence of the encouragement given to the ſtudy of the oriental languages by Lewis XIV, who encouraged every ſpecies of ſtudy. This ſpecies of compoſition may be claſſed with romances; for though it exhibits the abuſe of fancy, yet the ingenuity it diſplays, makes us pardon its extravagance and abſurdity. The Eaſt is the native region of fable, and the ſource of thoſe fictitious ſtories, which have ſpread over the world. Softened by the climate, and intimidated by deſpotiſm, the eaſtern nations have never been able to elevate their character to true philoſophy, and have only ſkimmed the ſurface of the ſciences. But, they have exhibited morality in the form of apologues, and have invented ingenious fables, which other nations have eagerly adopted. What amazing fertility of genius, what variety of incident, and what powerful methods of intereſting the mind, do they not diſplay in this ſtile of compoſition! It is only the Arabian mythology which diſplays the genius, fancy, and taſte of that of the Greeks, while it launches into a ſtill wider field of extravagance. The Grecian fables ſeem made for men, and confine themſelves to ſome traces of probability: the fables of the Arabs deſpiſe the reſtriction of rules, and ſeem to be compoſed for children. But, are not we all children with reſpect to tales? Is there any relation more delightful than that of Abaicaſem, or more affecting than that of Ganem. But, amuſement alone is not the only merit of theſe tales; they convey an accurate idea of the character and manners of eaſtern nations, and eſpecially of the Arabs by whom they were compoſed. They exhibit remarkable traits of that generoſity, which was always the favourite virtue of the Arabs, and on which the poets have diſplayed all their genius, and their fabuliſts their extravagance. The fineſt inſtances of this virtue are borrowed from the Arabs, and it is remarkable, that this is the only nation of which deſpotiſm has neither debaſed the mind, nor enfeebled the genius. Never was deſpot more abſolute or more terrible than this Haroun, whoſe name is celebrated in all their tales, and whoſe reign was the moſt brilliant æra of Arabian glory. It is impoſſible not to be aſtoniſhed at theſe ſingular manners and opinions, which produce the habit of ſlavery in an ingenious and magnanimous nation, and the diſpoſition in the prince to abuſe the power with which he is entruſted; that inclination in the moſt enlightened to diſregard entirely the lives of men, and that facility, in the ſubject, of valu-

ing his life only as it is eſtimated, and converting political ſervitude into a duty of religion. Theſe are the ſentiments with which their books are filled, and it is poſſible that this contempt of themſelves, which is ſo apparent, may have originated in the doctrine of fatality, ſo deeply rooted among eaſtern nations. This doctrine recurs continually in all their fables, the general conduct of which, exhibits a rapid tranſition from the extremity of misfortune, to the ſummit of proſperity; from the loweſt dejection to the higheſt elevation; from the intoxication of joy to the depth of misfortune. The authors ſeem to have had no other object, but to ſhow us how far we are ſubject to that unchangeable deſtiny, written upon the *Tablet of light*. Deſpotic ſtates, like all the oriental governments exhibit the moſt changeable theatre of the caprices of fortune, and alternations of the moſt extreme kind have always been more common in theſe countries than among us, for the will of a ſingle man, may, in a ſingle moment, confound and overturn every arrangement of ſociety, and this man himſelf may in a moment be precipitated from the height of grandeur to deſtruction, with the ſame facility as the victims of his own power.

The Arabian tales are a kind of dramatic painting of that nation, which attained the ſuperiority of the eaſt. The audacity and the artifices of their females, always the more careleſs of danger, the more cloſely they are confined and harſhly treated; the hypocriſy of their derviſes, the corruption of their judges, and the deceitful tricks of the ſlaves, are all repreſented in the moſt faithful manner, and much more accurately than they are pourtrayed by any traveller. Ancient traditions are likewiſe related in their peculiar manner. The hiſtory of Phædra, and that of Circe, may be eaſily recognized. Many incidents ſeem likewiſe to be borrowed from the hiſtorical monuments of the Jews. The hiſtory of Joſeph, perhaps the moſt affecting that antiquity has tranſmitted to our times, which exhibits ſo vivid a picture of the envy, which excites brother againſt brother, is likewiſe related in the Arabian tales, but in a manner very inferior to that of the ancient Hebrew author. The ground work plan, or connecting principle, of theſe tales deſerves no approbation. It is well known, that the adventure of Ioconde is the foundation of *The thouſand and one nights*; and that the Sultan Shah-Riar provoked at the infidelity of his queen, determines every morning, to ſtrangle the ſpouſe of the preceding evening, in order to avoid the dangers of the following day. If this method was certain, it was extremely violent. At laſt the daughter of his Vizir terminates theſe fatal nuptials, and preſerves her own life, by amuſing the Sultan with her ſtories; ſo that the prince ſeems to have been fonder of tales than of fine women, and fully as unreaſonable in his clemency as in his cruelty. It muſt, however, be admitted, that the tales of the firſt volume are arranged in ſuch a manner, as to excite curioſity ſo powerfully, that after hearing the beginning, it is difficult to reſiſt the deſire of knowing the reſt, eſpecially when one can ſay with the Sultan, "I can at any rate put her to death to-morrow."

The Perſian Tales, which are denominated "*The Thouſand and one Days*," are arranged on a better plan. The deſign of them is to perſuade a young princeſs, prejudiced againſt men, that they may often be faithful in love; and accordingly the greater part of theſe tales, are examples of fidelity. Many of them are extremely intereſting, but in general they do not exhibit that richneſs of fancy and variety, conſpicuous in "*The Thouſand and one Nights*." From the number of traditions drawn from the Mahometan theology, and the fanatical hatred which they breathe againſt the religion of the Magi, deſtroyed by the ſucceſſors of Mahomet; it is eaſy to perceive, that they are the compoſitions of a perſon of the ſacerdotal order.

To Galland, and Petit de la Croix, we owe the obligation, and it is a real one, of making us acquainted with the Arabian and Perſian tales. The firſt wrote with negligence, the ſecond with more correctneſs, but both with ſimplicity. There are few perſons who have not heard what happened to the firſt, ſoon after the publication of his firſt volume of Arabian Tales, in which he repeats ſo frequently, "my dear ſiſter, if you do not ſleep, tell us

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one of your tales." Some young men who had been diſguſted at this repeti tion, and they were not the only perſons who diſliked it, determined one winter night to go and waken the poor Galland, hallooing loudly under his window, M. Galland! M. Galland! He opened the window, and aſked what they wanted. "*M. Galland, are not you the tranſlator of theſe beautiful Arabian Tales? I am the very perſon.*" "Ah! well! M. Galland, if you do not ſleep, tell us one of your tales."

From the Arabian ſtories it were needleſs to paſs to the conſideration of thoſe which are properly denominated Fairy Tales, were it not to remark the folly of putting them into the hands of children, under the pretext of uniting amuſement with moral inſtruction. This inſtruction, which may be much better conveyed in a different manner, does not compenſate the impropriety of impreſſing their weak underſtandings with the fabulous ſtories of ogres, werewolfs, ſorcerers, and, in ſhort, whatever increaſes fear and credulity; two dangerous weakneſſes, which often, from the force of firſt impreſſions, paſs from the imagination to the character, eſpecially in weak minds, or when local circumſtances prevent the acquiſition of correct information. It is always bad to deceive infancy; on the contrary, that is the very age, when the moſt aſſiduous attention ought to be paid to the formation of firſt ideas; from the facility with which they ſtamp a laſting impreſſion. One can hardly imagine how frequently erroneous ideas impreſſed in tender infancy, have had the moſt pernicious effects. Reaſon, which is late in acquiring energy, never radically deſtroys the illuſions of the nurſe and the governeſs. It is ſtrange that the mind of a child ſhould ever have been deemed a fitter receptacle for error than for truth: it is as open to the one as to the other, and truth only ſhould be preſented to it. It is a good maxim, that whatever can form the judgment, or confirm the courage, cannot be too ſoon introduced into the tender minds of infants; to deceive and to frighten them is always pernicious. The imagination, which Montagne with ſo much propriety denominates *the fool of the family*, has too many opportunities of becoming the maſter; and inſtead of opening the gates of the manſion for his reception, it is impoſſible too ſoon to ſtation reaſon as centinel for his total excluſion. Many collections, lately publiſhed, ſhew how fruitful the age has been in theſe trifles, and that perſons of wit and genius have not diſdained to practiſe this ſpecies of compoſition. Taſte and fancy may be diſplayed in the moſt puerile trifles. Madame d'Aulnoy ſeems to have ſucceeded beſt in this claſs, and has given them all the intereſt of which they are ſuſceptible, and which depends, as in every ſpecies of fiction, on a degree of probability and conſiſtency preſerved in the marvellous, and in a ſimplicity of ſtile which correſponds to the trivial nature of the ſubject.

From the group of theſe writers, however, we except Hamilton, an original genius, who, when urged by the ladies of court to compoſe tales in the ſtile of *The thouſand and one nights*, which were then in vogue, wrote ſtories for the purpoſe of ridiculing them, as Cervantes compoſed a book of chivalry. He affected to increaſe the extravagance of the Arabian fictions, and to purſue it into abſurdity; but this abſurdity is ſo diverting, ſatyrical, and ſo much ſeaſoned with pleaſantry, and with the moſt happy and unexpected ſallies of wit, that we always perceive the man of genius ſuperior to the trifles with which he amuſes himſelf. In his *Fleur d'Epine* he proceeds ſtill farther; diſplaying the moſt charming traits of nature, and the moſt intereſting characters and ſituations. The object of this compoſition is moral, and the execution is enchanting. His object is to ſhew, that with genius, courage, and affection, a man poſſeſſed of neither fortune nor the graces of form, may overcome the greateſt obſtacles; and that in the female ſex, the beautiful yields to the graceful. Hamilton might, with juſtice, boaſt of grace; his ſtile is impregnated with it. It is ſufficient to mention the exquiſite picture of Tarare conveying away, on the ſteed Sonnante, the young *Fleur d'Epine*, whom he has carried off from the fairy Dentue, and who is only acquainted with him as her deliverer, but who, from this very circumſtance, already begins to feel an inclination for him. We find not here

here the common-place converſation of romance a thouſand times repeated in ſimilar ſituations. Hamilton, in a quite different manner, informs us of what paſſed in the breaſt of *Fleur d'Epine*. On the journey Tarare informs her how he had been ſelected to paint the fair Luiſante, whoſe "eyes killed every perſon ſhe looked on." You have ſeen her frequently, then? ſaid *Fleur d'Epine*. Yes, ſaid he, as often as I choſe, and without any danger, as I am going to tell you. Did you find her ſo wonderfully beautiful as they ſaid? A thouſand times fairer, ſaid he.—It is needleſs aſking you, added ſhe, if you did not immediately become paſſionately enamoured of her; but tell me truly.—Tarare concealed nothing that had paſſed between the princeſs and him, not even the promiſe ſhe had given him of marriage, if he ſucceeded in his enterprize. *Fleur d'Epine* had no ſooner heard this, than removing his hands which encircled her, ſhe placed herſelf upright, inſtead of leaning upon him, as ſhe had done before. Tarare thought he underſtood the meaning of this, and continued his diſcourſe without appearing to notice it—I do not know, ſaid he, what lucky influence had diſpoſed the firſt inclination of the princeſs in my favour, but I ſoon perceived that I did not merit it from the charms of my perſon, and deſerved it ſtill leſs from the ſentiments of my heart; for it was only too ſoon that I perceived that the affection which I thought I had for her, at the moſt, amounted only to admiration. Every moment that ſeparated me from her, inſenſibly effaced her idea from my memory, and from the firſt moment that I ſaw you I have quite ceaſed to remember her. He was ſilent, and the fair *Fleur d'Epine*, inſtead of ſpeaking, gently inclined towards him as before, and reſted her hands upon his, which he again drew round her to ſupport her.

Among the pictures which love has preſented, and will always continue to preſent, I do not think that there is one more natural, more pleaſing, or more graceful than this. It inſpires the idea of one of theſe delicious moments of pure affection, which are the more charming and valuable, becauſe the promiſes of love are ſuperior to the pleaſures which it beſtows.

Who has not read over and over again the *Memoirs of Grammont*, the moſt agreeable and ingenious of all frivolous compoſitions; the production of a lively and fine genius, accuſtomed, in the corruption of courts, to recognize no other vice but *the ridiculous*; to conceal immorality under the varniſh of elegance, and to extract gaiety and pleaſure from every thing. It exhibits ſomething of the manner of Voiture, but infinitely more refined. It is a perfect model of the art of relating trivial incidents ſo as to give them an adventitious intereſt. The hiſtory of the dreſs ſtolen by Termes, is an *unique* ſpecimen in this ſtile. That ſpecies of wit termed *perſiflage*, which Voiture had ſometimes diſplayed before it received this appellation, and which conſiſts in relating ſerious matters in a humorous way, and frivolous matters in a ſerious way, was firſt exhibited to a conſiderable extent in this book. When C. Grammont, ſpeaking of his valet Termes, ſays, "I would undoubtedly have put him to death, if I had not been afraid of detaining Miſs Hamilton," the ſerious air with which he ſays a ſilly thing makes it appear lively. But this kind of wit requires to be exquiſite, and to be kept within due bounds; it has nothing in common with that vamped, new-coined, unmeaning, and ludicrous language, which is now dignified with the name; which is equally devoid of taſte and ſenſe, and a ſpecies of foppery the more remote from elegance, the greater are its pretenſions to it.

Another, and an uncommon merit, which Hamilton may claim, is that of narrating a ſtory pleaſantly in verſe, in thoſe parts of his tales which are verſified. Voltaire cites the commencement of his *Belier*, as a charming morſel of its kind.

That of the four Facardins is no leſs pleaſing, but more negligent. His charming letter of mingled proſe and verſe, which begins

'Honneur des rives eloignées, &c.'

is known to every perſon of taſte: but this enumeration has exhauſted his merit; for, in his other poetical pieces, he he is not ſuperior to Voiture. The character of Chapelle is ſimilar in this reſpect. The *Journey*, compoſed in common with Bachamount, ſo that what is due to each is unknown, is a maſterpiece of its kind. It is one of theſe

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heſe fragments which ſhews that the laſt age had even, in their ſmaller compoſitions, a peculiar originality and richneſs of fancy, for though we have various *jonrneys* compoſed too by authors of merit, as Deſmahys, Lefranc, and M. De Parny, who have attempted to rival that of Chapelle, none of them can be compared with it. But it is his only good compoſition; his poems are even inferior to thoſe of Chevalier D'Aceilly, with which they are joined, though theſe are exceedingly feeble. In the *impromptu*, however, that amuſing trifle, which, for the moſt part, can only deſerve to be committed to tradition, Chapelle ſeems to have acquitted himſelf with ſpirit and vivacity.

THE LAST SONG OF OSSIAN.

BY CHENIER.

From the Memoirs of the National Intsitute.

THE extenſive and deſerved reputation which the poems of Oſſian have acquired on the continent, has attracted the attention of all literary men to the inveſtigation of the manners, cuſtoms, and literature of that Celtic race, who have ſtill preſerved their ancient language and character among the Highlands of Scotland. The Editors of the Scots Magazine, therefore, apprehend that they can hardly gratify their countrymen, in a higher degree, than by preſenting to them, the following elegant French verſion of The Dirge of Oſſian; which was read before a meeting of the National Inſtitute, by the author, Marie Joſeph Chenier, member of the National Inſtitute, of the claſs of literature and the fine arts. The Editors of the Scots Magazine wiſh to call the attention of their countrymen to the tranſlations of Scotiſh works into the different languages of Europe. The poems of Oſſian have been elegantly tranſlated into Italian and German as well as French, and we hope, on ſome future occaſion to be able to give our countrymen a comparative view of the merit of theſe tranſlations. The ſubject, indeed, is worthy the attention of the elegant and learned author of the *Eſſay* on Tranſlation. Many of the popular ſongs of the Scotiſh Lowlands have likewiſe been tranſlated into German, with equal elegance and ſpirit, by Herder. We know not if they have as yet attracted the attention of the French literati. Perhaps this neglect may have proceeded from the obſcurity of the dialect in which they are compoſed, but certain we are, that they will always find admirers in the lovers of ſimplicity, of every age and country. The popular ſongs of Scotland exhibit a conſiderable reſemblance to ſome of the moſt ancient compoſitions of the French Trouveurs. The ſame intereſting ſimplicity and affecting pathos in their tender compoſitions; the ſame *naive* raillery and unrefined wit in their humourous pieces, characterize the ſongs of the Scotiſh minſtrels, and of the authors of the Fabliaux. The ſame ſpecies of poetry is found among the Highlanders, but they ſeem to have been fonder of the ſerious and ſublime compoſitions of their bards.

LE DERNIER

HYMNE D'OSSIAN.

ROULE tes flots d'azur en ces rians bocages,
Torrent; viens de Lutha viſiter les vallons:
Penchez-vous, ô forêts des monts;
Du ſéjour de Toſcar ombragez les rivages,
Quand le midi brûlant y darde ſes rayons.

En inclinant ſon front, la fleur à peine éclоſe
Dit: " Souffle du printemps, permets que je repoſe;
" Ce matin belle encor, le ſoir va me flétrir.
" Ma tête, qui déja ſe penche languiſſante,
" A beſoin de ſe rafraîchir
" Dans la roſée humide et careſſante
" Dont la nuit vient de me couvrir.
" Le chaſſeur qui m'a vue en ma beauté
" naiſſante,

" Le chaſſeur reviendra demain:
" Ses yeux me chercheront au ſein de la
" prairie,
" Par mon éclat fragile un moment embellie;
" Ses yeux m'y chercheront en vain."
Ainsi les voyageurs, quand l'aurore vermeille
D'une lueur timide aura ſemé les cieux,
Près du toit d'Oſſian viendront prêter l'oreille
A ſes accens harmonieux:
Oſſian dormira; leur oreille attentive
Ne retrouvera plus ni ſa harpe plaintive,
Ni ſa voix des héros célébrant les malheurs.
" Qu'eſt devenu celui qui chantoit la vic-
" toire,
" Le fils du grand Fingal, l'héritier de ſa
" gloire?"
Diront-ils en verſant des pleurs.

Viens donc ô Malvina; que ma tombe iſolée
Sous tes mains á Lutha s'élève quelque jour;
Viens conduire l'aveugle en la douce vallée
Où ton père Toſcar a fixé ſon ſéjour.

Malvina, les accens de ta voix noble etendre
A mon oreille encor ne ſont point parvenus;
Tes pas harmonieux ne ſe ſont plus entendre:
Dans Selma déſormais ſeront-ils inconnus?

LE FILS D'ALPIN.

Oſſian, j'ai vu les collines,
De Toſcar j'ai vu le palais;
La chaſſe avoit ceſſé dans les forêts voiſines,
Les feux n'échauffoient plus la ſalle des banquets:
Un ſilence immobile habitoit les montagnes;
J'ai crié Malvina dans l'épaiſſeur du bois;
J'ai vu, l'arc à la main, ſes aimables compagnes
Revenir l'œil baiſſé, ſans répondre à ma voix.
Une morne douleur voiloit leur front timide:
Ainſi des aſtres de la nuit
Dans les flancs d'un brouillard humide
L'éclat léger s'évanouit.

OSSIAN.

Sur les monts, étoile charmante.
Tes feux, n'ont pas brillé long-temps;
Souvent dans l'onde carreſſante
La lune pâle et décroiſſante
Réfléchit ſes rayons tremblans.

Jeune étoile, ainſi ta lumière
S'éteignit avec majeſté;
Mais, en achevant ta carrière,
Tu laiſſes la colline entière
Dans le deuil et l'obſcurité.

A travers la nuit effrayante,
Les météores menaçans
Font jaillir leur clarté ſanglante.
Sur les monts, étoile charmante,
Tes feux n'ont pas brillé long-temps.

Approche, fils d'Alpin; les aquilons mugiſſent;
La tempête s'élève aux accens de ma voix;
Les ſombres flots du lac frémiſſent:
Conduis le vieillard dans les bois,
Ton œil ne voit-il pas un chêne ſans feuillage
Courber ſes longs rameaux penchés ſur les vallons?
Son tronc noueux, robuſte, et vainqueur de l'orage,
Couronne la cime des monts.
Conduis-moi près de lui: muette et détendue,
A ſes rameaux ſéchés ma harpe eſt ſuſpendue.
C'eſt ici, je l'entends. Mais ſes cordes en deuil
Ne rendent qu'un bruit ſourd et les ſons du cercueil.
Eſt-ce le vent, ma harpe, eſt-ce une ombre légère
Qui forme en te touchant ces lugubres accords?
Oui, de mon fils, d'Oſcar, c'eſt l'ombre ſolitaire:
L'amant de Malvina vient viſiter ces bords.
Le beſoin de chanter m'enflamme:
Apporte-moi ma harpe, apporte, fils d'Alpin;
Des chants ſignaleront le barde á ſon déclin;
Ils accompagneront le départ de mon ame.
Mes aïeux vont m'entendre en leurs palais d'azur;
La joie éclatera ſur leur viſage obſcur:
Je reconnois leur voix qui déja m'encourage;
Au ſommet du Mora je les vois tous aſſis;
Ils m'écoutent, penchés ſur le bord du nuage,
Et tendent les bras á leur fils.

Un pin couvert de mouſſe, et courbé ſur les ondes,
Y baigne ſes rameaux tremblans;
La fougère, élançant ſes feuilles vagabondes,
Se mêle á mes longs cheveux blancs.
Renais, force de mon génie;
Tel qu'un rayon du jour, que la douce harmonie
Diſſipe et la tempête et l'humide brouillard:
Oſſian va chanter; vens, déployez vos ailes;
Portez juſqu'à Fingal, aux voûtes éternelles,
Les derniers accens du vieillard.

Le Nord ouvre á mes yeux le ciel qui t'environne:
Des guerriers, ô Fingal, tu n'es plus la terreur;

Une

Une vapeur forme ton trône ;
Fingal même eſt une vapeur.
Les yeux humides des étoiles
Percent ton bouclier ſemé de foibles voiles,
Et ton glaive à demi brûlant.
Comment a-t-il perdu ſa force et ſa lumière,
Celui qui, durant ſa carrière,
Au milieu des héros marchoit étincelant ?

Quelquefois, menaçant nos têtes,
Promenant ta fureur ſur le vent des déſerts,
Tu tiens en ta main les tempêtes ;
Le ſoleil devant toi pâlit au ſein des airs.
Dans les nuages qui s'aſſemblent
Tu caches cet aſtre immortel ;
Les deſcendans des lâches tremblent,
Et la pluie en torrens fond des ſommets du ciel.

Mais lorſque, t'avançant ſur la voûte éthérée,
De ton paiſible aſpect tu réjouis les cieux
Le zéphyr du matin ſuit tes pas radieux,
Le ſoleil te ſourit dans ſa plaine azurée ;
Le chevreuil bondit ; les ruiſſeaux
Serpentent plus brillans dans la verte prairie ;
Leur onde rafraîchit les jeunes arbriſſeaux
Qui balancent leur tête odorante et fleurie.

Qu'entends-je ? quel bruit ſourd ſorti du fond des bois
S'élève, groſſit et s'avance ?
Sur le mont rayonnant c'eſt Fingal qui s'élance ;
C'eſt lui, j'entend gronder les foudre de ſa voix.

" Viens, Oſſian, rejoins tes pères :
" Les exploits de Fingal ſont aſſez éclatans :
" Tels que des flammes paſſagères,
" Nous avons lui quelques inſtans.
" Dans la plaine où nos mains ont ſemé l'épouvante
" Règnent le ſilence et le deuil ;
" Mais notre gloire encor vivante
" Eſt debout ſur notre cercueil.
" Ta harpe a de Selma fait retentir la voûte
" Oſſian s'eſt chargé de notre ſouvenir ;
" Ses chants on pénétré dans immenſe avenir,
" Et nous en ont frayé la route."

Attends, roi des héros ; je ſuis prêt, je le ſens :
Oui, je vais te rejoindre ; oui, je vais diſparoître :
Selma dans quelques jours ne va plus reconnoître
Ni ma trace, ni mes accens.
J'apperçois le nuage où doit planer mon ombre ;
Je vois l'épais brouillard de neige et de glaçons
Qui doit former ma robe ſombre
Quand j'apparoîtrai ſur les monts.

Nos deſcendans, cachés dans la caverne obſcure,
Viendront des héros leurs aïeux
Admirer les grands corps et l'immenſe ſtature :
Ils pâliront de crainte en regardant les nuages ;
Dan l'abîme des airs abaiſſés devant moi,
Ils entendront avec effroi
Rouler à mes pieds les orages.

Le ſommeil vient fermer mes yeux appeſantis ;
Près du roc de Mora je repoſe ma tête :
Je ne crains plus que la tempête
Siffle le long des bois daus mes cheveux blanchis.
Vents, dont le ſouffle humide au ſein des nuits m'éveille,
Vous fuirez mon tombeau paiſible et reſpecté ;
Vous ne troublerez plus le barde qui ſommeille
Dans la nuit de l'éternité.

Mais, ô fils de Fingal, pourquoi donc ce nuage
Qui couvre ton ame de deuil ?
Tout naît, croît, et finit ; la terre eſt un paſſage :
Des antiques héros la gloire eſt au cercueil.
La mort parcourt le monde en déployant ſes ailes :
Ils paſſeront auſſi, les fils de l'aventir ;
Remplacés par leurs fils, à des races nouvelles
Ils légueront à peine un léger ſouvenir.
Les générations fécondes
Se ſuccéderont à jamais,
Comme les flots des mers profondes,
Ou les feuilles de nos forêts.
Ryno, j'ai vu pâlir ta beauté mâle et fière ;
Le temps, mon cher Oſcar, a fait ployer ton bras ;
J'ai vu du grand Fingal s'éclipſer la lumière,
Son palais a perdu l'empreinte de ſes pas :
Et toi, chef des guerriers, toi, chantre de la guerre,
Mêlant à tes accords de ſtériles ſanglots,
Vieux barde, tu vivrois oublié ſur la terre
Aujourd'hui veuve des héros !
Non : cédant au commun naufrage,
Oſſian doit paſſer ; ſa gloire reſtera :
Du peuple en peuple, d'âge en âge,
Le nom d'Oſſian grandira.
Sur les bois de Morven ainſi levant la tête,
Contemporain du monde, un chêne ambitieux
Oppoſe ſon front large aux coups de la tempête,
Et rit des vents ſéditieux.

For the Scots Magazine.

VIEW OF A NEW EDITION OF ROSS'S FORTUNATE SHEPHERDESS.

THE clofe of the eighteenth century, from the ſpirited attempts of a few individuals, will, perhaps be regarded in future, as not entirely inauſpicious to Scotiſh literature. Several poets of great merit have ſtill continued to rouſe the paſſions, and delineate the living manners as they riſe, in the native dialect of their country. Some of the moſt ancient Scotiſh writings have been re-printed, with obſervations on their language, hiſtory, and value; and, more may be naturally expected, in proportion as the curioſity of the intelligent part of the nation for the mouldering remains of former ages ſhall be awakened.

THOUGH the natural veneration of this country for the monuments of her ſeparate independence were totally extinguiſhed, an event not very probable in the caſe of Scotiſhmen, the writings of Ramſay, Burns, and a few others, hardly leſs popular, were ſufficient of themſelves to reward ſome inquiry into the dialect in which they have pleaſed, and ſome pains to preſerve their beauties to poſterity. This inquiry is the more neceſſary, as the dialect of this country has never been grammatically examined; and is periſhing very faſt, even from the mouths of the vulgar. It is only a complete collection of the Scotiſh words, exhibiting their various meanings and general mode of pronounciation, the ſeveral phraſes in which they are uſed; and the form of conſtruction eſtabliſhed by uſage, that will enable the reader to peruſe, with advantage, the vernacular poets.

As, however, conſiderable difficulties ariſe, both in reſpect of the abilities requiſite for ſuch a taſk, and the encouragement given by the public to ſuch labours, ſomething of eaſier execution may be done in the mean time, to promote the common purpoſe, until circumſtances occur favourable to a greater undertaking.

THE Scotiſh authors may be divided into two claſſes; thoſe who flouriſhed before the Union, and thoſe who have written ſince that period.

THE diction of the firſt, though in many reſpects antiquated and obſcure, to an ordinary reader, is in fact, the true ſtandard of the dialect of the provinces that appears in the laſt. Anomalous as the vulgar Scotiſh dialects may ſeem, it is eaſy to diſcover the foundation of all their peculiarity in the language preceding the Union; and a perſon well acquainted with the ancient dialect, might eaſily arrange the modern irregularities.

THE gloſſaries added to particular books, would have very much facilitated the progreſs of Scotiſh lexicography, had they been compiled either with knowledge or attention. Unfortunately, till of late, moſt of them are miſerably defective in point of vocables, and phraſeology has been entirely omitted. Even thoſe which accompany the works of Ramſay and Burns, are of very little uſe; the ſignification of the words being often imperfectly conveyed; the orthography unfixed and arbitrary; and the pronunciation utterly neglected.

THE end of theſe remarks is to announce the re-publication of a Scotiſh paſtoral poem, written in a particular country dialect, which has, of late, excited conſiderable attention. The Fortunate Shepherdeſs of Alexander Roſs, a poet of the Grampian hills, poſſeſſes very conſiderable merit, as a faithful repreſentation of rural manners among the Scotiſh ſhepherds of theſe ſolitary mountains. It is written in their vernacular dialect; alludes to cuſtoms once common over the whole kingdom; and affords ſcope for illuſtrating many curious points of popular antiquity.

The

The manner in which it is propoſed to be publiſhed, is the following:

FIRST, to give ſome account of the author, who, though he died later than the year 1784, was almoſt co-temporary with Allan Ramſay.

NEXT, to appreciate the merit of the poem, by a criticiſm on the whole and on particular paſſages, and eſtimate its rank in the claſs of paſtoral poetry.

THE text of the poem will be given from the moſt authentic editions, with the orthography of the author ſettled by the MSS. of the unprinted writings of Roſs, at preſent in the hands of the editor.

AN explanation of the various cuſtoms and popular manners alluded to in the Fortunate Shepherdeſs will then follow, many of which are now obſolete, or known only among the claſs of men from which the poet drew his characters.

THE edition will be concluded with a diſſertation on the Buchanſhire dialect, the language of the poem; its hiſtory will be traced as far as information will allow; the various opinions of antiquaries with regard to its origin will be conſidered in the courſe of the inquiry.

A GENTLEMAN to whom Scotiſh literature lies under many obligations, has affirmed that this dialect is the remainder of the Pictiſh language, once ſpoken by a people that inhabited the moſt fertile provinces of Scotland, but are now only heard of in the page of the antiquary, and the voice of traditions. Others have, with greater probability, referred it to a later origin. It is, however, ſtrongly diſtinguiſhed from all the other dialects of the kingdom in vocables and pronounciation, and perhaps contains more of the Teutonic than all of them together. It involves the curious queſtion, how the Engliſh or Saxon language made ſo rapid a progreſs in the northern parts of the iſland, as to extirpate the Gaelic from the court of Scotland, and even from the eaſtern ſhores of the whole country.

A COPIOUS gloſſary of the words will be given, executed on a very conciſe plan, in which the ſignification, etymology, and pronounciation, will all be comprehended, ſo as to render it a uſeful work to antiquaries, and particularly to thoſe who are ſtudying the dialects of the iſland for information or amuſement.

THE Fortunate Shepherdeſs, as a poem deſcriptive of Scotiſh manners, on its publication, attracted the approbation of Dr Beattie, one of the ſweeteſt poets and acuteſt philoſophers of whom Scotland can boaſt. Many of its ſcenes are not inferior to thoſe of the Gentle Shepherd of Ramſay. Its poetical merit, its curious dialect, and the ſubjects which it ſuggeſts for inquiries into national manners, hiſtory, and antiquities, originally recommended it to the Editor as deſerving re-publication in a more accurate form than any in which it has yet appeared; and, if he fails in attracting the public attention, he will regret that it is more from the want of ability than inclination.

Edinburgh, Jan. 19. 1802. A. M.

FOREIGN LITERARY NOTICES.

VAN HEUSDE, a ſcholar of Wyttenbach, of the univerſity of Leyden, has undertaken to publiſh the MS. work of the late learned Ruhnkenius, on the Scholia of Plato: and for this purpoſe, has obtained the permiſſion of the curators of the Library; who have liberally extended it to the publication of any of their unedited MSS., which he may ſelect.

Loosjes of Harlem is employed in publiſhing an unedited MS. of the illuſtrious Grotius, which contains a compariſon of the manners and characters of the Athenians, Romans and Dutch: a work which may be expected to attract the public attention whether we regard, the ability of the author or the ſingularity of the ſubject.

In one of the French periodical pub-

lications, we are informed of a ſingular fact concerning the taſte for German literature, which our Scotiſh ladies are ſuppoſed to have imbibed. Ladies of the firſt rank in Scotland are ſuppoſed, by the Pariſians, to ſtudy the German language with the utmoſt avidity, in order to peruſe Klopſtock and Wieland in the original. We have the utmoſt reaſon to believe, that the fact is at leaſt conſiderably exaggerated, and that neither of the authors particularized, are ſo popular in Scotland, as they are repreſented. Excepting perhaps, "The Robbers" of Schiller, which was originally tranſlated by a Scotiſh gentleman of equal taſte and learning; the compoſitions of the Germans have attained a very tranſient popularity in Scotland. The ſtudy of the German language has been for ſome time on the decline here; and certainly preſents more attractions to men of ſcience, than of literature. The abilityof the Chymiſts, Naturaliſts, Anatomiſts, and Claſſical ſcholars, preſents conſiderable attractions to the ſtudy of the language; but it is neither their poets, their dramatiſts, nor their novelliſts, that will be admired here, till they exhibit as much correctneſs, as they often poſſeſs genius.

At Berne in Switzerland, the Correſpondence between Solomon Geſſner, the author of the death of Abel and other compoſitions, and his ſon Conrad Geſſner the painter, are to be publiſhed immediately.

The Hieroglyphics of Egypt, have long attracted the attention of literary men. As many diſſertations on that ſubject may be ſoon expected from the learned Engliſh and French, who have lately viſited Egypt, it would be a deſireable object, that theſe figures ſhould be compared with the Mexican paintings, many of which ſtill exiſt. The Bodleian library contains five volumes of theſe Mexican Hieroglyphics; a collection of them is alſo preſerved in the Imperial library at Vienna. Cardinal Borgia poſſeſſes a conſiderable collection of them; and many of them were in the poſſeſſion of Bertin. Clavigero has made great uſe of theſe paintings in his hiſtory of Mexico.

The Royal Academy of Stockholm propoſed laſt year, for the ſubject of their hiſtorical prize eſſay. A Hiſtorical and Critical Eſſay on the books or writings, publiſhed or unpubliſhed, which have been compoſed by the Royal family of Sweden. The Princes of Sweden in modern times, have been more illuſtrious warriors than authors, and the ſubject was not found very intereſting to the Swediſh literati; for no papers were preſented to the Academy on the ſubject. It is long ſince any of the Princes of the North have been able to imitate the fame of Regner Lodbrog. The ſubject has been repeated for next year. Prize, a gold medal worth 26 ducats. The following ſubjects have likewiſe been propoſed. The compariſon of the advantages and diſadvantages of the 17th and 18th centuries, for promoting the general intereſts of the human character. Prize, a gold medal worth 26 ducats. Eſſay on the election and coronation of the kings of Sweden, before the acceſſion of Guſtavus I.

It is a ſingular circumſtance in the hiſtory of the Small Pox, that the ſame animal which introduced the diſtemper, ſeems to furniſh the beſt preſervative againſt it. Marius the firſt Biſhop of Lauſanne, in the hiſtory of his own time, mentions the ſmall pox, and adds, that the diſtemper only attacked cattle. "An. 570, Hoc anno, morbus validus, cum profluvio ventris et *variolâ*, Italiam Galliamque valde afflixit; et animalia bubula, per ea loca, maxime interierunt." In the following year however, the ravages of the diſtemper extended to men. "An. 571, Hoc anno infanda infirmitas et glandulâ, cujus nomen eſt puſtula, in ſuprascriptis regionibus, innumerabilem populum devaſtavit." Müller, in his Hiſtory of Switzerland, has adduced two other paſſages of ancient authors, which ſeem to allude plainly to the ſmall pox; one of them is from Paul Warnefrid, who ſpeaks of glandules in the form of a nut, which were followed by a violent fever. "Glandulæ in modum nucis quas ſequebatur febrium æſtus. Anaſtaſius Biblioth. mentions the plague of boils, ſo that no perſon could diſtinguiſh the dead body of his relation. "Percuſſio Scabierum, ut nemo poſſet mortuum ſuum internoſcere.

The arſeniate of copper, a mineral from Cornwall, has lately been deſcribed by Lelievre, and analyſed by Vauquelin. It chryſtallizes in brilliant hexagonal plates, tranſlucid, of an olive green colour; it decrepitates in the

the flame of a candle, colours the flame green, melts with difficulty by the blow pipe, emits the odour of garlic, tinges the glass of borax green with reddish circles, and dissolves, without effervescence, in nitric acid, which it colours slightly green. 100 parts of this mineral, contain 39 of the oxyd of copper, 43 of the arsenic acid, and 17 of water; losing one part in the analysis.

Dolomieu shortly before his death, read a memoir on an important point, in the history of Volcanoes. The degree of heat necessary to give fluidity to lava. The examination of the effects of the lava on the subjects enveloped in it, at the last eruption, afforded a method of determining this subject. He found, that the heat did not exceed that of fused silver, and was inferior to that of fused copper. The metals susceptible of oxydation, were oxydated even in the middle of the masses, in which they were enveloped; lead was converted into tesselar galena, in large scales; and glass was converted into porcelain.

The experiment of castration has been tried at Paris, on one of the young lions lately produced in the Menagery, belonging to the School of Natural History. It is the first time that this operation, the effects of which, in tempering the ferocity of domestic animals is well known, has been applied to the species of the lion. The animal on which the operation was performed, has only become more ferocious.

The Royal Academy of Berlin, have proposed the following prize Question, for the year 1802.

For the Mathematical Class.

As after all the labours of the most able astronomers, many points relating to the variation of the obliquity of the Ecliptic, still require illustration, the Academy invite the learned to a new examination of this subject; and propose a prize for that memoir, which contains the most interesting and satisfactory researches.

It is a curious fact, and applicable to the treatment of Epidemics, that the pestilential disorder which ravaged Andalusia, has been stopped in its progress, chiefly by fumigation with muriatic acid. This method of purifying the air, and preventing contagion, was suggested by Guyton, whose useful researches have thus been crowned, by the most pleasing recompence a philanthropic mind can receive.

In a memoir read by Langlés, before the National Institute, that ingenious Orientalist has shown, that the colossal statue of the Sphinx has long been worshipped on the banks of the Nile. The Egyptian peasants, who regarded it as a Talisman for preventing the encroachments of the moving sands of the desart, offer to it sacrifices and burn incense. Langlés supposes, that one of the subterraneous canals of the great pyramid, terminated immediately under the Sphinx. The mutilation of this statue was caused in the 14th century, by the zeal of a fanatic Mussulman, who disdained, that the faithful should be protected by an idol. The Sphinx was accompanied by a statue of Isis, with the cornucopia, holding the young Orus in her arms. The Egyptians who termed the first Pharoah, denominated this his concubine, and reckoned it a Talisman for preventing the Nile from changing its course.

A work of singular research and learning is announced at Rome, by G. Zoega, Danish consul in that city. It is entitled, De origine et usu Obeliscorum, *in Fol.* 700 p. and relates to the most obscure subjects of Egyptian antiquity. Zoega, who has resided for a considerable period at Rome, had composed a work on the medals of Alexandria, which are contained in the Borgian Museum at Velletri. By this means, he was introduced to pope Pius VI. by whom he was engaged in the present work, and encouraged to direct his studies to Egyptian antiquities. This work is divided into five sections.

The first records the testimonies of the ancients, concerning the Egyptian obelisks and pillars. It presents the passages of ancient authors, who have mentioned obelisks, with notes, and *variæ lectiones*. In particular, the celebrated passage of Pliny is collated with 30 MSS. The descriptions of obelisks still existing, which ancient authors have left, are recorded; also the ancient inscriptions still existing on these monuments; and the objects relating to the arts, which are sculptured on them. The second section contains a description of the obe-

lisks

liſcs which ſtill exiſt, whether perfect, or mutilated, at Rome, in Italy, Sicily, France, England, and at Conſtantinople; with the accounts of the different authors, who have deſcribed thoſe which ſtill exiſt in Egypt and Ethiopia.

The third ſection, on the uſe of obeliſcs in Egypt, treats of the names given to obeliſcs, of their figure, conſtruction, grandeur, poſition, deſtination, and the ſignification of the ſculptures engraved on them; of the opinions of modern authors concerning them. Under this head, Zoega combats the opinion of Mercati and Kircher, who always look for the marvellous in hieroglyphics. He praiſes the modeſty of Bandini; and ſuggeſts, that the inſcriptions on theſe monuments probably are hymns to the divinities to which they were conſecrated.

In the fourth ſection, he diſcuſſes the origin of obeliſcs, the different kinds of commemorative monuments; Termini, Lapides Saturni, Betylæ, Agiæ, Phalæ, Hermæ, Janus, &c. To theſe, he adds various obſervations on the worſhip of Mercury, Bacchus, Veſta, on conſecrated trees, fetiches, amulets, erymes, and palladia. He then examines the hiſtory of the different kinds of ſepulchral monuments, mounds, pyramids, columns, and ſacella, catacombs, ſculptured rocks, mummies, and their caſes. He inveſtigates the opinions of the Egyptians, concerning the Metempſychoſis, concerning the worſhip of the infernal gods, the worſhip of Oſiris, and the ideas of the Egyptians, concerning Elyſium. In the ſecond chapter of this ſection, he inveſtigates the origin and uſe of letters among the Egyptians, and compares the opinion of ancient authors, concerning them. He examines the origin and nature of hieroglyphics, which he reckons equally diſtinct from the Mexican paintings, the Chineſe characters, and even the ſymbolic characters of the Egyptians. He examines their number, their ſignification, and its modes; the ſounds by which they were expreſſed; their duration and the changes to which they were ſubjected; by which means, he reduces them to ſix epochas. He interprets the different Egyptian ſymbols, explains various articles in Horappollo, and even a number of hieroglyphics. He diſcuſſes the origin and uſe of the two kinds of alphabetic writing, uſed by the Egyptians, the ſacred and the vulgar; deſcribes the Egyptian monuments inſcribed with alphabetical characters, which have deſcended to our time. He treats of the ſacred or Hermetic books of the Egyptians; their hiſtorical, aſtrological, medical, and chymical books; their writers, as Hermes, Petoſiris, and others; the different claſſes and functions of the prieſts; and the age of the modern Coptic character, which he aſſigns to the third century. Beſides theſe topics, he inveſtigates the origin of writing; the different kinds of writing among different nations, and particularly, the origin of alphabetical characters, which he derives from the *Phonetic* Hieroglyphic, or that which was uſed to indicate a particular ſound. In the third chapter, he treats of the Egyptian ſtellæ or pillars, and of the obeliſks derived from them; the pillars of Hermes, Seſoſtris, and Oſiris, (which comprehends the moſt ancient hiſtory of Egypt,) lettered pillars among the Greeks; the gradation from ſmall pillars to large obeliſcs. This ſection terminates with the explanation of the ſymbolical figures, ſculptured on the ſummit and baſe of the Roman obeliſcs, and an illuſtration of the interpretation of the Flaminian obeliſc by Hermapion.

The fifth ſection contains the hiſtory of obeliſcs, divided into three periods. The firſt period comprehends the moſt ancient obeliſcs, or thoſe which were erected before the conqueſt of Rome, by the Perſians: to this period, he aſſigns the obeliſc on Mount Citorio; that of the Flaminian gate; and that of Saint John de Latran. The obeliſcs of Belvidere and Navonne, he ſuppoſes to be poſterior to the time of Pſammetichus. The ſecond period comprehends the time between Cambyſes and Auguſtus, and the reign of the Ptolemies, to whom he aſſigns the pillar of Pompey. Here the author ſeems to agree with Dr White, who has ſupported this opinion in his Egyptiaca, or Fragments of Egyptian hiſtory. The third period extends from the reign of Auguſtus, to the pontificate of Sextus V. and treats of the Roman works formed upon the Egyptian model, as the obeliſks of the Monte Pincio and Minerva. The

work

work closes with the chronology of obelisks, according to the systems of Mercati and Kircher, as well as that which he himself has adopted. From this sketch of the contents of Zoega's performance, we may predict, that it will prove exceedingly interesting, especially, to the inquirers into remote and recondite antiquity. The systems of Kircher and Mercati, after a long repose on the shelves of our libraries, have begun to attract attention, from the numerous coincidencies, which had been observed between the Egyptian and Hindu theology and manners. The learned Maurice, in his Indian antiquities and history, has frequently employed their ideas; but this learned Dane may probably render it necessary, to alter or modify many parts of his hypothetical system.

Camus read to the literary class of the National Institute, the plan of a Dictionary of the French language, which seems a model of its kind. The plan of it was formed by M. Curne De Saint Palaye, member of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres. He employed in the execution of it, many young persons, who were engaged in studying the history of France. His design was to give the complete history of the vocable, by shewing its original form, in the earliest works which exist in the language; the variations it suffered in the process of time; the original signification of the word; the variations of this primitive meaning by extension or restriction; the period in which it ceased to be used, if it has become obsolete; or its modern signification, if it be retained in the language. The coadjutors of St Palaye, perused the ancient chronicles and histories, the ancient tales and romances edited or unedited; they remarked the period in which every word appears in the language; the orthography, or manner in which it is written, and the sense in which it was employed; they traced it through the different periods in which it was used, and marked when it became obsolete, or whether it still continues to be used; in the latter case, marking the modern orthography and acceptation.

The extracts necessary for the execution of this great work are completed and deposited in the National Library. The printing of the first volume, which is to contain the letter *A*, was begun before the revolution, and above 600 pages have been finished; a dictionary executed on this plan, though not only a difficult, but a stupendous undertaking, must be a prodigious accession to philological literature; the plan itself is worthy of the attention of our own lexicographers; of Sir Herbert Croft, who has long been engaged in the composition of a complete English dictionary; and of Boucher, who is understood to be engaged in the formation of a dictionary of Provincial language; an arduous task, which every friend of literature in this country must be desirous of seeing completed, and which is hardly inferior, either in point of difficulty or utility, to a dictionary of the pure language.

Langlés has published, from MSS., an historical description of the canal of Egypt, by Macrizi and other Arabian authors.

The Sixth volume of the Extracts of MSS. in the National Library, is published at Paris. It contains many curious notices concerning the Oriental translations of classical authors, by Camus. Extracts of the letters and works of Theodorus Hyrtacenensis of the 12th, and Theodorus Prodromus of the 13th, century; authors who supported the decline of Greek literature under the Constantinopolitan Dynasties. One of the letters of Theodorus Prodromus, illustrates the history of the small pox. It likewise contains an account of an unedited Greek Romance, composed of Iambic verse, by Nicetas Eugenianus, and intituled the Amours of Drosilus and Charicles. Amelihon has continued his account of the ancient Greek Chymists, and of the factions which disturbed the reign of Charles VI.

Prize Essays of the National Institute.

The *Mathematical Class* propose the following question. To discover the method of diminishing, as much as possible, the deflection of a vessel of war, in an oblique course, by combining, in the most favourable manner, the form of the keel, the draught of water, the position of the main couple, with stability. Though the Institute do not wish to exclude the application of geometry,

yet

yet they prefer the illuſtration of this ſubject by actual obſervation. The prize is a gold medal, value one kilogram.

The *Phyſical Claſs*, propoſe "To eſtabliſh the general relations which exiſt between the internal and external organization of vegetables, particularly in the great families of plants admitted by all botaniſts." Authors are requeſted to ſubjoin to their eſſays, figures of the organs which they deſcribe. The prize is a gold medal, value five hectograms. The ſcience of organized bodies, conſiſts in the knowledge of their organization, internal and external. External ſigns, named *Characters*, the firſt circumſtance in their nature with which we become acquainted, are uſeful for indicating the internal organization from which they proceed. Theſe two branches of ſcience, therefore, mutually illuſtrate one another. Thus zoology derives from anatomy the baſis of its great diviſions; the method of claſſing, with preciſion, the different orders and families of animals, and the illuſtration of their different habitudes and methods of procuring their ſuſtenance. The phyſiology of plants ſhould illuſtrate botany, or the ſcience of their claſſification, in the ſame manner. The obſervations of Grew, Malpighi, Leuwenhoeck, Duhamel, Bonnet, Senebier, and others, have already enriched the philoſophy of plants, with a number of iſolated facts, which may direct to ſtill more intereſting reſearches. Deſfontaines has inveſtigated the differences ſubſiſting among *monocotyledonous* plants, in the ligneous fibre and the vaſcular ſyſtem. This was an important diſcovery: and the inquiry ought to be extended to the ſubdiviſions of the two great claſſes; and to the *acotyledonous* or cryptogamous plants. The examination of the internal organization may inform us whether theſe ought to form a third diviſion, or to be included in the former claſſes. In examining the internal ſtructure of vegetables, compoſing the great claſſes admitted by all botaniſts, it ought to be noticed, whether each of them has a particular internal organization, common to all the plants of its order, and different from that of other families. It ought to be remarked, whether the notion of their affinity, founded upon exterior characters, be confirmed in the ſame degree by the inſpection of their internal organs. Theſe circumſtances may aſſiſt us to determine the cauſe of the union or ſeparation of the ſexes, of the exiſtence or abſence of the corolla, of the unity or plurality of its petals, of the number and ſituation of the ſexual organs; in a word, the characters deduced from the ſexual organs, and invariable in all known families.

The *Geographical Claſs* propoſe; To compare the geographical knowledge of Ptolemy, concerning the interior of Africa, excepting Egypt and Barbary, from Tunis to Morocco, with the information tranſmitted to us by later geographers and hiſtorians. Prize, a gold medal of five hectograms.

SCOTT'S MINSTRELSY OF THE SCOTISH BORDER.

THE Kelſo preſs, which, if we regard the execution of an early ſpecimen, promiſes to vie with the fineſt exhibitions of typography, in other countries, has juſt produced a work, which we heſitate not to affirm, will attract the attention of men of literature, not only in Scotland, but in every country which has preſerved a taſte for poetical antiquities, and popular poetry. When the Celtic mine of poetry was firſt diſcovered, the admiration, and the incredulity of the learned were excited in almoſt an equal degree. The mine of poetry diſplayed in the Minſtrelſy of the Scotiſh Border, though inferior in quality, to the fragments of Oſſian, has ſufficient claims to the pub-

lic

lic attention, both in reſpect of merit and novelty. But the merit of the poetry is not the ſole attraction of the work; the numerous ſketches of Border Hiſtory, and accounts of popular ſuperſtitions and local traditions, have a diſtinct value of their own. From the introduction, which contains an elegant ſummary of the Scotiſh Border Hiſtory, we ſhall endeavour to preſent our readers with a conciſe view of the materials, which compoſe the work. The Minſtrelſy of the Scottiſh Border, contains three claſſes of poems, Hiſtorical Ballads, Romantic Ballads, and Modern Imitations. The Hiſtorical Ballad relates events which are either known actually to have taken place, or which, making due allowance for the exaggerations of poetical tradition, we may readily conceive to have had ſome foundation in hiſtory. From the ſtate of ſociety, theſe Border Ballads cannot be expected to exhibit refined ſentiment, far leſs, elegant expreſſion, though the ſtile of compoſition, has, in modern hands, been found highly ſuſceptible of both. But, paſſages might be pointed out, in which the rude minſtrel has melted into natural pathos, or riſen into rude energy. Even where theſe graces are totally wanting, the intereſt of the ſtories themſelves, and the curious picture of manners which they preſent, authoriſe them to claim ſome reſpect from the public. The ſecond claſs of Romantic Ballads, comprehend ſuch popular legends, concerning fictitious and marvellous adventures, as are current on the Border. Carrying with them a general, and not merely a local intereſt, they are much more generally known among the peaſantry of Scotland, than the Hiſtorical Songs termed *Raid Ballads*, from their celebrating predatory inroads, on the marches of the two kingdoms, and which were generally confined to the mountains where they were originally compoſed. The third claſs, which conſiſts of modern imitations, are founded on ſuch traditions, as, in the elder times, may be ſuppoſed to have employed the harps of the minſtrels. In this department, the ingenious Editor regrets, that he has not been able to avail himſelf, fully of the extenſive aſſiſtance which he has received, and which he poſtpones to an intended third volume. The ſongs of every claſs are accompanied with curious notes and diſſertations, which at once ſerve to connect them with hiſtory, and to mark the genius of the periods in which they were compoſed. After preſenting our readers with this brief plan of the work, we ſhall briefly mention the ſources from which the materials have been derived. In this age of literary ſcepticiſm, this appears to be of the moſt material importance. Had the authenticity of the Poems of Oſſian been properly inveſtigated at the moment of publication, much light might certainly have been thrown upon the ſubject, which the lapſe of time has now rendered difficult, or impoſſible, to be procured. We may likewiſe add, that conceiving the diſcuſſion to be of literary importance, our work ſhall always be open to candid and liberal inveſtigation; though we are of opinion, that no doubts will ever be entertained by any perſon acquainted with the perſonal character of the ingenious Editor, and his peculiar advantages, in forming a collection, that may be expected to rank with that intereſting and learned work, THE RELIQUES OF ANCIENT ENGLISH POETRY.

"The pipers," ſays Mr Walter Scott, "of whom there was one, till a late period, attached to each border town of note, and whoſe office was often hereditary, were the great depoſitaries of oral, and particularly of poetical, tradition. By means of theſe men, much traditional poetry was preſerved, which muſt otherwiſe have periſhed. Other itinerants, not profeſſed muſicians, found their welcome inſured, wherever they travelled, by their knowledge in legendary lore. JOHN GRAEME of Sow-port in Cumberland, commonly called *the Long Quaker*, a perſon of this latter deſcription, is ſtill alive; and, ſeveral of the ſongs now publiſhed, have been taken down from his recitation. This perſon is, perhaps, the laſt of our profeſſed ballad reciters, and is now upwards of 80 years of age. He was, by profeſſion, an itinerant cleaner of clocks and watches; but, a ſtentorian voice, and a moſt tenacious memory, qualified him eminently for remembering accurately, and reciting with energy, the Border Gathering Songs and tales of war. The ſhepherds alſo, and aged perſons, in the receſſes of the Border mountains, frequently remember

and repeat the warlike songs of their fathers. This is more particularly the case in what are called the *South Highlands*, where, in many instances, the same families have occupied the same possessions for centuries. It is chiefly from this latter source, that the Editor has drawn his materials, most of which were collected many years ago, during his early youth. But he has been enabled, in many instances, to supply and correct the deficiencies of his own copies, from a collection of Border Songs, compiled from various sources by the late Mr Riddell of Glenriddel, a sedulous Border antiquary. In the department of romantic ballads, the Editor has been indebted to the MSS. of Mr Herd of Edinburgh, the editor of the first classical collection of Scotish songs and ballads in 1774. Two valuable MS. collections have likewise been communicated by my learned and respected friend, Alexander Fraser Tytler, Esq; of Woodhouselee, for which he was indebted to the taste and memory of Mrs Brown of Falkland, who learned the greater part of them from her aunt Mrs Farquhar, a lady who resided in Braemar, near the sources of the Dee." Such are the sources from which Mr Scott has formed his interesting collection; and, from this account which we have extracted from his preliminary dissertation, it is obvious, that he has rescued from oblivion, these curious monuments of the "older time," as they were on the very eve of perishing. We beg leave to suggest to this industrious collector, that it is probable the extremities of the west and north, or Galloway and Caithness, in the districts which use the English language, may still preserve some valuable fragments of poetry, as well as the southern borders, and the eastern coasts of Scotland; and that we shall always be happy to facilitate his inquiries.

We have the satisfaction to inform our readers, that the ancient Romance of Sir Tristrem, ascribed to the celebrated Thomas the Rhymer, or rather, Thomas Rymour of Ercildoune, will shortly appear, in an elegant form, from the Kelso press. It will be published from the Auchinleck MS. (an invaluable collection of ancient romances, deposited in the library of the Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh) with a preliminary dissertation and glossary, by Walter Scott, Esq; Advocate, the editor of the Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.

A History of the Scotish Rebellion in 1745, by John Home, Esq; author of Douglas and other ingenious works, is now in the press. The author had the advantage of being present in some of the scenes which he describes. As it has long been his favourite composition, great expectations are entertained of it; and, from his opportunities of acquiring information, it can hardly fail to illustrate, in a superior manner, that very interesting period of Scotish History.

A Dissertation on the Reign of Queen Mary, by Malcolm Laing, Esq; Advocate, the ingenious author of the History of Scotland, from the Union of the Crowns to the Union of the Kingdoms, is in the press. The researches of Mr Laing, and the study of original documents, are understood to have placed the character of that beautiful and unfortunate princess, in a very unfavourable point of view; and, the known accuracy of his investigations, cannot fail to render him a very formidable foe to her fame.

The Original Chronicles of the Picts, Welch, Strathclyde-Briton, and Dalriadic Princes, edited in Latin and English, by J. Ritson, Esq; will shortly issue from the Edinburgh press. From the well-known accuracy and research of this learned antiquary, much light cannot fail to be thrown on that very dark period of Scotish and British history, and the hypothetical opinion of the Gothic origin of the Picts, at present so generally adopted, will meet a more formidable opponent, than it has hitherto encountered.

The Rev. Mr Findlater is engaged in an Agricultural Survey of Tweedale, which will shortly be published.

A History of Ancient and Modern Africa, by the editor of the Complaynt of Scotland, is now in the press at Edinburgh, and will speedily be published, in two large volumes, 8vo. It is to include the most modern discoveries, and will exhibit a comparative view of the ancient and modern state of that interesting country.

A Second Volume of the work of G. J. Bell on the Law of Bankruptcy, and containing the practical part of the subject, is in great forwardness.

Our readers will be delighted to learn,

learn, that an elegant edition of that beautiful poem, the Pleaſures of Hope, is propoſed, with original poems by the ingenious author. Many of the additional pieces are underſtood to be even ſuperior to the former productions of Mr Campbell.

An elegant edition of Beattie's Minſtrel will ſhortly iſſue from the Kelſo preſs.

A tour in the Highlands of Scotland, illuſtrated by numerous elegant plates, by Mr Alexander Campbell, author of the Introduction to the Hiſtory of Scotiſh Poetry, is in the preſs, and ſhortly will be publiſhed.

Mr A. Lawrie, bookſeller, Edinburgh, announces a Hiſtory of Maſonry, in which the real hiſtory of the order is to be inveſtigated, its importance as a civil inſtitution eſtimated, and the various forms pointed out which it has preſented in different countries.

A new edition of Murtadis' Egyptian Hiſtory, with notes and illuſtration, is preparing at Edinburgh, and will ſhortly be publiſhed. This author, whoſe original Arabic text, we regret, has never been publiſhed, is mentioned with approbation, by the learned Gibbon.

A new edition of Grainger's Poems, in 2 vols 8vo, edited by the learned Dr Robert Anderſon, author of the Lives of the Britiſh Poets, will ſhortly be publiſhed at Edinburgh. The ſecond volume conſiſts of unpubliſhed poems from the original MSS. of the author.

POETRY.

ODE
FOR THE YEAR M,DCCCII.

BY HENRY JAMES PYE, ESQ.

LO! from Bellona's crimſon car,
At length the panting Steeds unbound;
At length the thunder of the War
In feſtive ſhouts of Peace is drown'd:
Yet, as around her Monarch's brow,
Britannia twines the Olive bough,
Bold as her Eagle-eye is caſt
On hours of recent Tempeſt paſt,
Thro' the rude Wave and adverſe Gale
When free ſhe ſpread her daring Sail,
Immortal Glory's radiant form,
Her guiding Load-ſtar thro' the ſtorm,
Directed by whoſe golden ray,
Thro' Rocks and Shoals ſhe kept her ſteady way—
"My ſons," ſhe cries, "can Honour's Guerdon claim;
"Unſoil'd my Parent Worth, unſtain'd their Sovereign's Fame!"

Albion! tho' oft by dread alarms,
Thy native valour has been tried,
Ne'er did the luſtre of thy Arms
Shine forth with more refulgent pride,
Than when, while Europe's Sons diſmay'd,
Shrunk recreant from thy mighty aid;
Alone unfriended, firm you ſtood,
A barrier 'gainſt the foaming flood.—
When mild and ſoft the ſilken breeze
Blows gently o'er the ripling ſeas,
The Pinnace then may lightly ſweep
With painted oar the halcyon deep:
But when the howling Whirlwinds riſe,
When mountain Billows threat the Skies;
With ribs of Oak the Bark muſt brave
The inroad of the furious wave;
The hardy Crew muſt to the raging Wind
Oppoſe the ſinewy Arm, the unconquerable Mind.

In every Clime where Ocean roars,
High, tho' thy Naval Banners flew,
From where by Hyperborean ſhores,
The frozen Gale ungenial blew,
To ſultry Lands that Indian ſurges lave,
Atlantic Iſles, and fam'd Canopus' wave;
Tho' from inſulted Egypt's Coaſt
Thy Armies ſwept the Victor Hoſt,
From veteran bands where Britiſh Valour won
The lofty walls of Ammon's god-like Son;
Uſeleſs the danger and the toil,
To free each ſelf devoted ſoil,
Auxiliar Legions from thy ſide
Recede, to ſwell the Gallic Conqueror's pride:
While on Marengo's fatal Plain,
Faithful to Honour's tie, brave Auſtria bleeds in vain

Not fired by fierce Ambition's flame,
Did Albion's Monarch urge his Car,
Impetuous thro' the bleeding Ranks of War;—
To fuccour and protect his nobler Aim.
His guardian Arm, while each Hefperian Vale,
While Lufitania's vine-clad Mountains hail,
Their ancient Rights and laws reftor'd,
The Royal Patriot fheaths the avenging Sword;
By Heaven born Concord led, while Plenty fmiles,
And fheds her bounties wide to blefs the Sifter Ifles.

For the Scots Magazine.

THE ERL-KING.*

From the German.

O! who rides by night thro' the woodlands fo wild?
It is the fond fond father embracing his child,
And clofe the boy neftles within his loved arm
From the blaft of the tempeft, to keep himfelf warm.

"O Father! fee yonder!" fee yonder! he fays.—
"My boy, upon what doft thou fearfully gaze?—
"O! 'tis the Erl-King, with his ftaff and his fhroud!"—
"No, my love! it is but a dark wreath of the cloud.—

The Phantom fpeaks.

"O! wilt thou go with me, thou lovelieft child!
"By many a gay fport fhall thy hours be beguil'd;
"My mother keeps for thee full many a fair toy,
"And many a fine flower fhall fhe pluck for my boy."—

"O Father! my Father! and did you not hear
"The Erl-King whifper fo clofe in my ear?"—
"Be ftill my loved darling, my child be at eafe!
"It was but the wild blaft as it howl'd thro' the trees."—

The Phantom.

"O wilt thou go with me, thou lovelieft boy!
"My daughter fhall tend thee with care and with joy;
"She fhall bear thee fo lightly thro' wet and thro' wild,
"And hug thee, and kifs thee, and fing to my child."—

"O Father! my Father! and faw you not plain,
"The Erl-King's pale daughter glide paft thro' the rain?—
"O no; my heart's treafure! I knew it full foon,
"It was the grey willow, that danc'd to the moon."—

The Phantom.

"Come with me, come with me, no longer delay,
"Or elfe, filly child, I will drag thee away.—
"O Father! O Father! now, now, keep your hold!
"The Erl-King has feized me—his grafp is fo cold."—

Sore trembles the Father; he fpurs thro' the wild,
Clafping clofe to his bofom his fhuddering child;
He reaches his dwelling in doubt and in dread;
But, clafped to his bofom, the infant was dead!

E. F.

* After the numerous tranflations from the German which have appeared in this country, we conceive it to be needlefs to illuftrate the popular mythology of the Erl-King, or fpirit of the woods, according to the Germans. The beautiful German fong of the *Erlkoning*, has been tranflated by Mr Lewis, the ingenious author of the Monk, and other performances, and by Mr Taylor of Norwich, the original tranflator of the celebrated *Lenore*. For the following verfion, which was executed before the publication of any of thofe we have mentioned, we are indebted to a Scotifh literary gentleman, whom we do not hefitate to place at the head of thofe who have cultivated this fpecies of poetry in this country.

ELEGY

On the Poet Thomfon.

GENTLE Poet, farewell! ah! when fhall thy bofom,
Again, or with fancy, or nature be blefs;
Sweet bard of the Spring, canft thou mark the young bloffom,
That fprouts from the green turf that lies on thy breaft.

No

No more while the Summer unfolds her wild-roſes,
The dew ſprinkled meads by thy feet ſhall be preſt;
Unconſcious, the bard in his lone cell repoſes,
While flowers paint the green turf that lies on his breaſt.

In the pale morn of Autumn, the horn of the reaper,
Shall rouſe thee no more from the dreams of thy reſt.
What ſound from the grave ſhall awaken the ſleeper,
Tho' the woodlark ſings ſweet o'er the turf on thy breaſt?

Nor more ſhalt thou trace or the tempeſt's wild motion,
Or the ghoſts gliding ſlow on the wings of their miſt?
Far from Winter remov'd, and from life's ſtormy ocean,
Tho' ſnows hide the green turf that lies on thy breaſt.

While Eden, ſad flows, thro' his green whiſpering ſedges,
While Tweed's tufted banks are with primroſes dreſt,
So long ſhalt thou live in the boſom of ages,
And hallowed the turf be that lies on thy breaſt.

The damſels of *Ednam*, while Autumn is fading,
Their long hair with chaplets of willow incas'd,
In the moon-beams ſhall ſing, on the banks of the Eden,
"Ah! light be the green turf that lies on thy breaſt."

Say, haſt thou, ſweet Poet, our woodlands forſaken!
To tune thy ſoft harp to the choir of the bleſt?
Even angels ſhall liſt while its numbers awaken,
And bleſs ſhall the green turf that lies on thy breaſt.

W. G.

Banks of the Ken, Dec. 30. 1801.

SONG.

AH! weep not my true love tho' now we muſt ſever,
Can lovers ſo faithful be doom'd long to part?
But thou, from my boſom, evaniſh ſhalt never,—
While loſt to my eyes, ſhalt thou live in my heart.

The dreams of fond love round my fancy ſhall hover,
And hope ſtill ſhall cheer me while pleaſures deſert;
Tho' wide roll the green waves 'twixt thee and thy lover,
Tho' loſt to my eyes, thou ſhalt live in my heart.

'Twere treaſon, my ſweet-heart! e'er falſe to believe thee,
So tender, ſo artleſs, ſo mild as thou art;
And think'ſt thou that then, I could ever deceive thee?—
While loſt to my eyes, thou ſhalt live in my heart.

Thou ſweet child of feeling, thou beauty's young bloſſom,
Ill form'd to endure of misfortune the ſmart,
Oh! may no rude ſtorm break the peace of thy boſom,—
While loſt to my eyes, thou ſhalt live in my heart.

A long laſt farewell! faireſt offſpring of nature,
Moſt ſweet in thoſe tears that forbid us to part;
In the mirror of fancy ſhall live every feature,
That fades from my eyes, but to live in my heart.

W. G.

Banks of the Ken, Dec. 30. 1801.

THE TWA BOTTLES.*

A Dialogue on a late Parliamentary deciſion.

Strong Ale.

HEH! neighbour, but you're wond'rous crouſe!
Ye're gaen, I ſee, to yon change-houſe:
What's a' the news that's ſteering?
Has ony thing come late frae France,
That maks ye ſtend ſae, loup and dance?
Excuſe me, ſir, for ſpeering.

Whiſky.

France! de'il than France was in a low!
There's little wit in that fool pow,
That wadna try to trick her;
Her blaſted, taſteleſs, cauldriſe wine!
Has owre lang join'd wi browſts o' thine,
To ſtap our good *Scots liquor*.

* We are indebted to a Literary friend for this communication; which we have reaſon to believe, comes from the pen of Hector M'Neill, Eſq; the ingenious author of WILL and JEAN.

Strong Ale.

Aye man! it ſets you weel, I trow!
To crook your ill ſcrap'd, ill far'd mou,
And gab ſae to your betters.
I fain wad ken what turn o' late
Has ſet a-field this blether-ſkate,
I thought faſt bound in fetters?

Whiſky.

Aſk my dumb doup! if *lugs* ye've nane,
Gae *read*, the news will gar ye grane!
They've plaid a bonny pliſky!
Our PARLIMENT (God bleſs them a'!)
Has gi'en, at laſt, proud chiels a fa',
And hoiz'd up honeſt whiſky!

Strong Ale.

I'm ſorry for't wi' a' my heart!
No on my ain, but country's part,
And good folk's conſolation!
Gin a' be true, that now ye tell,
Poortith and vice may ſtrike the knell
O' death and conſternation!

Whiſky.

Ha! ha! I kent 'twad mak' ye wae!
But birkie! tend to what I ſay;
Ye'd better leave off *preaching*.
Hearts that are happy ken few fears,
De'il haet, ye'll get but taunts and jeers,
For a' your thankleſs teaching.

Strong Ale.

Alas! for ance ye've ſpoke owre true!
Whan madneſs reigns, calm thought adieu!
Yet hark ye friend ere parting;
Though for a day fools mount in air,
Whan mirk night comes, in dumb deſpair,
Sa't tears will then be ſtarting.

Whiſky.

Tears! tears for what?
Strong Ale—For follies paſt;
For ruin hurl'd in thriftleſs waſte;
For uproar and confuſion.
For friends and kindred ſcattered wide;
For *bairns*, pale ſhivering at their ſide,
To prove the mad deluſion.

Whiſky.

The picture's waefu', we confeſs;
But for the *cauſe*, the learn'd may gueſs,
We poor folk canna ſpell it:

Strong Ale.

Weel, weel ye ken! tho' laith to ſpeak,
If a' ſhame hadna fled your cheek,
Your bluſhing face wad tell it.

Weel, weel ye ken! ſive years and mair
Can hardly yet the ſkaith repair
O' a' your midnight keeping.
The wounds that bled are ſcarce ſkinn'd o'er,
The wretch that mourn'd frae door to door,
Is hardly yet done weeping.

Whiſky.

Pugh! what the ſorrow was't I did?
I took the folk aft by the head;
Did ye ne'er do the ſame now?
Drunk, ay is *drunk*, what maks the *ſin?*
Is't whiſky think ye, ale or gin,
That brings the ſkaith or ſhame now.

Strong Ale.

Whan drunk wi' *ale*, fools *doſe to reſt*;
Painfu' nieſt morn wi' unrack'd breaſt
They taſte *health's* recreation;
But drunk wi' *you*, ilk brain, red wood,
Scatters wi' rage and boiling blood;
Deſtruction round the nation.

Madd'ning wi' you, the ſage turns fool;
Mild woman ſinks frae *virtue's* ſchool,
And laughs at a' decorum;
Affliction flees the parent's heart!
And miſery ſees the double dart
O' flight and want afore him!

Poiſon'd by thee wi' knawing pain,
The *ſtomach* tries its powers in vain,
To ſave the ſtem that's dowin;
Faſt! faſt the blooming bloſſoms fly!
While *drink*, *drink*, *drink*, is a' the cry,
To quench the flame that's lowin!

Tutor'd by thee, infernal gunde!
Vice ſpreads his crime-ſtain'd banners wide
To mar ilk ſweet affection!
Dark *rapine* prowls in midnight deeds;
And urged by want, the *murderer* bleeds
By juſtice' ſtern correction.

Theſe are thy bleſſings! reptile vile!
Wha' dares wi' taunt, and jeer, and ſmile,
To vent your ſenſeleſs gabble!
Upſtarted now forſooth and crouſe!
Fit comrade for yon black change-houſe,
And a' its drukin' rabble!

There, blackguard! there, ye'll had your reign,
Feeding wi' flame, the fev'ring brain
O' thieves, and hell-fir'd fallows;
Till round and round the *furies* reel,
And rinning head-lang to the de'il,
Ye ſtring a' on ae gallows."—

Scar'd at the ſpeech, aff in a fright
Swith! *whiſky* fled wi' a' his might,
While ilka virtue hiſs'd him;
Trembling, vile wretch! he reach'd the door
Whar loud in riot's dru'kin' roar
Whores and *diſtillers* kiſs'd him.

H.

HISTORICAL CHRONICLE.

IT was the intention of the Editors of the SCOTS MAGAZINE to have preſented their readers with a rapid ſketch of the political aſpects exhibited in the year 1801, the firſt year of the nineteenth century, which might have claimed the merit of originality, while it diſplayed thoſe liberal and moderate principles to which they have conſtantly adhered. They are, however, of opinion, that it is impoſſible to diſcharge their duty to their readers, with greater propriety than by adopting the following political ſketch which lately appeared in a Scotiſh provincial newſpaper. It is the compoſition of Mr James Ballantyne, Editor of the Kelſo Mail; and we flatter ourſelves that our readers will agree with us, that whether we regard the elegance of the ſtile, or the accuracy of the political views, which it contains, it deſerves a reputation which far tranſcends the celebrity to be derived from any newſpaper.

POLITICAL SKETCH
OF THE YEAR 1801.

THE lapſe of another year calls upon us to offer our renewed tribute of gratitude and reſpect to the public; and we welcome the invitation with a degree of pleaſure, to which we have long been ſtrangers. After having been, during almoſt the whole of our public life, the recorders of war, ſcarcity, and tumult, it is gratifying in no common degree to be at length enabled to preſent our annual congratulations, unalloyed by any feeling of apprehenſion for Public Security, or of ſympathy for National Diſtreſs; to be enabled to hail the return of plenty to a contented country, and of Peace to a haraſſed World.

BLESSINGS like theſe, of no partial nature; unmingled with any ſelfiſh alloy, and embracing the cauſe of humanity itſelf; bleſſings like theſe claim the undivided gratitude of our ſouls, and we pay it with the reverence which is due.

THAT our readers may be enabled duly to eſtimate our preſent advantages, it may not be unprofitable to lay before them, a connected and impartial detail of the great events by which the paſt year has been characterized; that thus, by recalling the ſituation of alarm in which we ſtood at its commencement, they may eſtimate aright the happy change which has diſtinguiſhed its cloſe. Such an appreciation will tend to excite in every reflecting mind, reverence for thoſe high decrees which controul the affairs of men; and will direct the gratitude of every Britiſh heart to thoſe wiſe and ſalutary councils, by which their country repoſes, after its hard toils, vigorous in independence, and ſtrengthened in every honourable principle.

AT the commencement of the paſt year, we found ourſelves involved in difficulties more intricate, and in dangers more alarming, than at any former period of the war. At home, we beheld the nation groaning under privations, which a ſecond ſeaſon of ſcarcity had impoſed; while the diſtreſſes ariſing from this heavy calamity, was aggravated by the progreſſive accumulation of the national debt, and the encreaſing taxation by which fuel was to be ſupplied for the flames of war, burſting forth with new fury, after the failure of a third attempt to negociate.

THE ſituation of our ſiſter kingdom preſented a ſpectacle yet more diſtreſſing and critical. Suffering equally with us the phyſical preſſure of want, the cruel cunning of the diſaffected converted a diſpenſation of Providence into a ſtimulus to outrage and tumult; while the renewed threat of invaſion emboldened the hopes of the ſeditious, and excited the utmoſt anxiety on the part of Government.

ABROAD, our proſpects were not more flattering. At that eventful criſis, Great Britain was ſeen ſtanding almoſt alone in a conteſt, which France, by the extent of her revolutionary reſources, had ſucceſsfully carried on upon the continent for upwards of eight

years,

years, againſt her and her allies. But Great Britain was more than deſerted. The energy of ſome of her former friends was directed againſt her; and and a coalition, formidable even in the eves of Engliſhmen, had newly been formed againſt the very heart of her ſtrength, by the three great Northern Powers, with Ruſſia at their head.

FRANCE, at this period, beſides having extended her Continental territory, and her Continental alliances, ſtill retained the poſſeſſion of Egypt, and ſeemed thence to menace our Eaſtern eſtabliſhments.

SUCH were the circumſtances of our ſituation at the commencement of the year 1801. But now was evinced the efficacy of that ſyſtem of Laws, Manners, and Morals, which, after every deduction to be made for human frailty and folly, diſtinguiſhes and elevates, beyond every other, this pre-eminently happy Land. The ſpirit of its People, and of its Government, remained firm and unſhaken. The horrors of want were ſuſtained with the characteriſtic patience of a hardy race; the dangers which menaced from abroad were contemplated with the calm fortitude of Freemen; and it may with truth be affirmed, that there never was a period of the war at which a greater union of ſentiment prevailed, or at which, had invaſion been attempted, a more determined enthuſiaſm would have been oppoſed to the foe.

IT was in this ſituation of our affairs, at home and abroad, that a diviſion having ariſen in the Britiſh Cabinet, reſpecting, as it was ſaid, the propriety of complying with certain religious immunities, and political privileges, claimed by the Irith Catholics, in conſequence of the union of the two countries, the Right Honourable WILLIAM PITT, and ſeveral of his colleagues, reſigned their offices as Members of Adminiſtration. Mr ADDINGTON, at the call of his Sovereign, relinquiſhed the moſt dignified ſtation to which the Repreſentatives of a free people could elevate him, and in which he had ſecured the approbation of every man of every party, to aſſume the perilous and complicated duties of Prime Miniſter of Great Britain. Perſonal ambition he ſtrongly, and we believe juſtly, diſavowed. He well knew that it would not be eaſy, that it was hardly poſſible, for him to retain, far leſs to increaſe, the high character and cordial attachment, which had preceded and accompanied his elevation. Love for his country appears to have been the noble principle by which he was influenced; and the ſyſtem which he wiſely adopted for the promotion of her welfare, combined juſtice with National Spirit, and aſſociated moderation with deciſion.

THE firſt great object of the New Adminiſtration was, by candid and liberal propoſitions, by open and honourable explanation, to conciliate the Powers compoſing the New Coalition. That taſk, however, fairly and conſcientiouſly as it was undertaken, they well knew to be of at leaſt dubious ſucceſs; becauſe they knew, (what is ſince proven beyond diſpute) that the queſtion reſpecting neutral veſſels was a mere pretext for hoſtilities; and that the true ſpirit which influenced the Councils of the Northern Powers, was a jealouſy of our Naval pre-eminence, fomented by the policy of France, which could only be removed by the utter deſtruction of the object which gave it birth. While, therefore, the the Negociation was yet depending, Miniſters were making prepararions to act, ſhould it be neceſſary, a more commanding part; and, as ſoon as its failure was aſcertained, a powerful fleet was diſpatched from England, which, having paſſed the Sound without moleſtation, approached the harbour of the Daniſh Capital. Finding all attempts to conciliate ſtill ineffectual, a detachment of the Grand Fleet, under the command of the Hero of the Nile, on the morning of the 2d of April, attacked the Daniſh Line, ſtrongly moored in the Roads of Copenhagen, and powerfully ſupported by the batteries which lined the ſhore.

THE plan of attack was worthy the ſoul of a Nelſon; the conflict was long and terrible; but the victory was complete. Britiſh valour was again aſſerted in its native energy, and the efforts of a gallant foe ſunk nerveleſs before it. But the praiſe due to the Britiſh Commander was not limited to the acquiſition of a victory; for no ſooner was the fire of the enemy's batteries ſilenced,

ced, and the unlimited power of deſtruction committed to his humanity alone, than the Admiral went himſelf on ſhore, and recommended to the Prince Royal of Denmark to propoſe a truce; declaring, "that the object of his miſſion was, not the deſtruction of a brave people, but to aſſert and to ſecure the lawful rights of his King and Country." The heroic recommendation was gratefully acceded to; and the gallant Engliſhman retired from the conteſt, mingling with the bloody laurels of victory, the ſofter ſhade of the peaceful olive.

At this period, the death of the weak-minded and capricious Paul, diſſolved into its elements, the ungenerous and impolitic Coalition; and the further progreſs of our triumphant fleets towards the North was rendered unneceſſary. A new treaty with the Northern Powers, moderate in its terms, and comprehenſive in its nature, reſtored us to our former intercourſe with them, and ſecured and finally ſettled, every thing eſſential to our maritime and commercial rights. Our fleet returned to receive the exulting gratulations of its country, to cover and defend our ſhores, and to menace or blockade the harbours of our remaining foe.

Public ſolicitude, now no longer directed to the North, became concentrated in the fate of the ſquadron, which, in the preceding year, had ſailed towards the South, with a large and well appointed army on board, under the command of the gallant Sir Ralph Abercromby; and had accompliſhed a landing on the ſhores of Egypt.

The heroiſm with which the Britiſh troops approached the ſhore, in open boats, oppoſed by a formidable diviſion of the French army, ſtrongly and ſkilfully diſpoſed both for attack and defence; the regularity with which they landed, amidſt a ſhower of deſtruction; the ſteadineſs and celerity with which they formed; the gallantry with which they attacked and defeated the oppoſing foe, and forced their way up the ſteep eminence on which the main body of the French army was ſtationed—theſe brilliant particulars, though we have been unable to reſiſt the pleaſure of thus ſhortly alluding to them, we know to be freſh in the memory of every Briton. Equally preſent to our minds, but remembered with far different ſenſations, is the fatal event, which overcaſt, the glories of the campaign, and covered with the ſacred drops of ſympathy, the toil-worn cheek of the ſoldier. On the 21ſt of March the gallant Abercromby fell. Like the illuſtrious Theban chief, who expired on the field of Mantinea, or the Britiſh hero who bled on the plains of Quebec, he ſaw, prior to his diſſolution, that victory was about to crown the ſtandard of his country, and he breathed forth his gallant ſpirit, in accents of thankfulneſs and exultation.

The command of the army, after the death of the illuſtrious Abercromby, devolved upon General Hutchinſon, an officer every way qualified to mature and to execute the plans which his predeceſſor had formed. The great battle of the 21ſt of March was followed by a ſeries of attacks, conducted with equal ſkill and courage, and all of them crowned with ſucceſs. The co-operation of our Indian troops, and of the Turkiſh army, ably ſeconded by our naval commanders in that quarter, tended to accelerate the ſucceſsful concluſion of the campaign. In the ſhort ſpace of five months from the landing of the Britiſh, was a French army of thirty thouſand men, ſtrongly defended, inured to the climate, and in quiet poſſeſſion of the country, completely beaten and ſubdued; thoſe Frenchmen who had eſcaped captivity and the ſword, were compelled to ſhut themſelves up within the walls of Cairo and Alexandria; and thoſe places, after ſtanding a ſhort ſiege, ſurrendered on terms of capitulation to the victorious Engliſh.

The Britiſh Empire owed more to this memorable expedition than the expulſion of the French from Egypt, or the ſecurity of its eaſtern poſſeſſions. It owed, to the valour, hardihood, and diſcipline there diſplayed, the extenſion of its warlike character, and the confirmation of its old renown. Engliſhmen and Frenchmen, were here fairly oppoſed to each other; regiment meaſured its ſtrength with regiment, and man contended ſingly with man. The reſult was UNIFORMLY in favour of the Britiſh. The heroes of Jemappe, and of the Pyramids; of the

10th of Auguſt, and of the Bridge of Lodi—in ſhort, every nicknamed hero of every bloody day of their calendar, felt the ſubduing force of native courage, and reſigned the palm of military proweſs to unpretending Britiſh ſoldiers. This important leſſon was thence for ever impreſſed upon the people of both countries, and upon Europe at large:—that the ſphere of Britiſh valour is not limited to one element, but embraces equally the Land and the Sea; and the foe has been taught to anticipate, by this diſplay of courage and diſcipline on a foreign ſhore, what would be his reception ſhould he dare to attack Engliſhmen on a dearer ſoil.

Whilst exploits of ſuch magnitude as theſe were atchieving in the Baltic and in Egypt, a negociation was opened between the new adminiſtration and the French Government. The public, recollecting how ineffectual had been every former attempt, looked forward to the iſſue of this with much ſolicitude, but with little hope. This painful recollection was aggravated by the conſideration, that at the cloſe of every former effort to negociate, national diſlike and the rancour of party, ſeemed to be reciprocally augmented. The forebodings which were thus raiſed, were confirmed by the increaſing preparations, which, during the period of the negociation, were mutually making for more determined attack and defence; and by the deſperate aſſaults made by a Britiſh ſquadron upon one of the ſtrongeſt harbours of the oppoſite ſhore. The important negociation meanwhile, though hourly expected to cloſe, went on without interruption; and, at the moment when public expectation was entirely deſtroyed, the Preliminary Treaty of Peace was announced! The joy of the nation was not inferior to its aſtoniſhment; and, although its ſpirit continued unbroken, and its reſources unexhauſted, it was obvious, from the acclamations which iſſued from every quarter of the kingdom, that this important ſtep received the decided ſanction of the people at large.

We now approach to the cloſe of our promiſed review. The ratification of the Preliminary Treaty ſpeedily followed the annunciation of its ſignature; and a Nobleman, wiſe, moderate, and firm, who had filled with honour the higheſt ſtations which his Sovereign could beſtow, was ſelected as the Britiſh negociator at Amiens. His reception in France has been worthy the dignity of his perſonal character, and of his exalted office; and the news of the completion of the Definitive Treaty, which is daily expected, may arrive before this faint ſketch of national proſperity is diſmiſſed from the hand of the writer.

While Peace is thus confidently anticipated, Plenty, thank Heaven, is ſecured. An abundant harveſt has crowned the labours of the huſbandman. In this country, the voice of want, and of ſuffering, is no longer heard; and, in our ſiſter kingdom, the efforts of the diſaffected being deprived of every ground of ſupport, permanent tranquillity appears to be on the eve of being eſtabliſhed.

We have now completed our rapid ſketch of the events of the year 1801; and, if we have at all ſucceeded in developing the plan upon which we ſet out, the attention of our readers has been directed, ſucceſſively, to thoſe great æras in the political hiſtory of the country, for that period, by which its Internal Security has been aſcertained, its Maritime Rights vindicated, or its Commercial Proſperity advanced. Before concluding, we beg leave to dwell at ſome length upon the probable effects of the Peace; in particular, with reference to thoſe wild theories and deſtructive principles to which ſome have not heſitated to aſcribe the origin of the War.

We know that there are individuals in the country, who, as we apprehend, comparing our preſent ſituation, rather with the abſtract anticipations of theory, than the ſober deductions of rational expectation, would have preferred a continuance of the War, to Peace, eſtabliſhed on the terms of the Preliminary Treaty. To ſuch perſons we would recommend, in addition to the hiſtorical facts which we have above enumerated, a proſpective view of the conſequences that would be likely to attend a prolongation of the conteſt with France. Such a view would exhibit two powerful nations, directing againſt each other their undivided energy, and this no longer, as before, extended

tended to foreign poſſeſſions, but hopeleſsly concentrated towards each others vitals. That from ſuch a ſyſtem, much external devaſtation, and much internal diſaffection and alarm, muſt have reſulted, cannot for a moment be doubted. What happy effects might have ariſen, to counterbalance theſe dreadful ones, we really cannot pretend to gueſs.

Of the articles which compoſe the Preliminary Treaty we conſider it unneceſſary, if not indecorous, to ſpeak; becauſe we are ignorant of the modifications which they may undergo before they are definitively arranged. But this we may be permitted to ſay, that in the acknowledged patriotiſm, and perſonal character, of thoſe who conduct the negociation on the part of Great Britain, we have the ſureſt pledge that neither her intereſts, nor her honour, will be bartered or compromiſed. It will not ſurely be denied, that independently of the iſlands of Ceylon and Trinidad, which we have acquired by the war, our extended and flouriſhing dominions in the eaſt, added to our colonies in the weſt, are amply ſufficient for every purpoſe of Commercial Superiority, or National Wealth. If we leave to France a gigantic empire, let it be conſidered, what are the means by which that empire has been acquired, and how far it is likely that its parts will long cohere; whether, in fine, ſo unwieldy and heterogeneous a maſs, as that of which this Empire is compoſed, is not more likely to prove deſtructive of her own tranquillity, and fatal to her own ſtability, than in any degree to endanger ours.

If there is any of the Preliminary Articles on which we feel diſpoſed to remark, it is that, by which, notwithſtanding the great and arduous atchievements of our arms, Egypt is reſtored to the entire and undivided ſway o the Turks. We willingly give our tribute of approbation to that ſcrupulous adherence to good faith, which upon this, and upon every other occaſion, has diſtinguiſhed Great Britain; but we feel it impoſſible to contemplate, without emotion, this Land, the cradle of human genius, the fountain of civilization and ſcience; diſtinguiſhed, even after the lapſe of many ages of darkneſs and deſpotiſm, by aſtoniſhing monuments of ancient art, and the traces of a glory now no more: we cannot, without powerful emotion, contemplate a Land like this, intereſting alike to the Philoſopher, the Man of Science, and the Hiſtorian, once more, and for ever, conſigned to oblivion and chains.

From this involuntary digreſſion, into which we have been hurried by feelings which we could not reſiſt, we haſten to the concluſion of this Addreſs.

Thoſe Jacobinical principles, which were formerly ſo much and ſo juſtly the ſubject of abhorrence and dread, appear now to be diveſted of their power to injure. The experience of the laſt few years has opened the eyes of the deluded, while the energy of Government, ſeconded by the courage and native good ſenſe of the country, has unnerved the arm of the diſloyal. Beſides, in that country in which theſe prepoſterous principles were originally ſet afloat, and in which their effects have proved ſo deleterious, they are now heard of no more. The Britiſh nation now more than ever, know how to eſtimate a Conſtitution, dear to them from habit, and venerated from reflection; and which, at this day, contains more of theoretical excellence, and ſecures more of practical freedom, than any other nation has ever enjoyed. From the ſcepticiſm and manners of a licentious people, brought into renewed intercourſe with us, much danger may juſtly be dreaded; and, as national corruption is generally accompanied with the decline of genuine freedom, every precaution that can be deviſed to enable us to eſcape the contagion, is reaſonable and neceſſary. But, at preſent, we heſitate not to aſſert, that the French Government has more cauſe to be alarmed by the propagation of Engliſh principles, than that of England has to apprehend from the operation of French ones.

Upon the whole, we would remark, that a ſtate of peace *may* be a ſtate of danger; but that a ſtate of war *muſt* be ſo. Worſe than cold-hearted is that politician, by whom the horrors of war are regarded with complacency, and peace alone with diſmay. Shall we ſeek to be involved in new and untried calamities, becauſe every viſionary wiſh cannot be gratified? Becauſe objects are not accompliſhed, which the ſober ſenſe of all mankind has declared to

be unattainable? Or, ſhall we ſuffer it to be ſaid, that, ſafe amid her ſurrounding waves, and covered by her triumphant Navy, Britain can ſmile at the carnage which ſhe feels not? Away with ſuch ſelfiſh, ſuch deteſtable principles! Alike unworthy the generoſity and public virtue of Britons. Let us truſt to a prudent and vigorous adminiſtration for the adoption of ſuch precautions as the renewal of our Continental intercourſe may render neceſſary; and, let us never doubt, that, by the bleſſing of Heaven, we ſhall retain the poſſeſſion of that felicity, for which we have long been diſtinguiſhed, and ſhall tranſmit our privileges, in undiminiſhed luſtre to the Ages of Futurity.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE Parliament of the three united kingdoms, on Monday, 28th December, was adjourned on the motion of Mr Addington, only to Monday the 4th of January 1802. Various cauſes of this ſhort receſs were conjectured in the different public circles, as the Miniſter had declined to offer an explanation of his motives, from profeſſed grounds of prudential conſideration. After the motion was put, Mr Thomas Grenville claimed the attention of the Houſe to ſeveral obſervations relative to the Preliminaries of Peace between this country and France. He affirmed, that the terms of theſe appeared to him inſufficient for the ſecurity and honour of the nation, which was the more confirmed by a report, that the Breſt fleet, conſiſting of 16 ſail of the line, with 10,000 troops on board had ſailed for the Weſt Indies. He called upon the Houſe to conſider the danger which might accrue from this circumſtance to our Weſt India poſſeſſions, and on Miniſters to confirm or diſprove the truth of the report. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in reply, aſſured the Houſe, that no doubt could be entertained of the ſailing of the fleet, though not confirmed by official information; but, that, whether this event was to be conſidered as a ground of alarm, and what meaſures of precaution had been taken to prevent what might happen, were matters on which the Houſe would not expect any preſent information. After ſome other buſineſs, both Houſes were adjourned to that day ſe'ennight.

THE Parliament, according to order, met again on the 4th. In the *Houſe of Lords*, Mr Woodcock's bill, praying to be divorced from his wife, Ann Croſbie, on account of criminal intercourſe, between her and General Hutchinſon, at the preſent time employed in Egypt, was preſented and read for the firſt time. Mr Woodcock had, on account of ſome diſagreement, ſeparated from his wife in 1794, and articles had been mutually made of this ſeparation. The bill was grounded on criminal intercourſe in 1799. On theſe particulars, it was remarked, that tho' not abſolutely neceſſary, it was at leaſt cuſtomary with the Houſe to require the petitioner, in a bill of this nature, to bring proof to the bar, that he had firſt ſued for damages at leaſt in Weſtminiſter hall; that Mr W. having renounced the intimate ſociety of the matrimonial union, had no title to recover the compenſation at law, for what he had clearly abandoned. It was moved that the ſecond reading of the bill ſhould be delayed till the firſt of February. Both Houſes were again, on the motion of the Miniſter, further adjourned, to Thurſday, the 14th of the current month.

IN the *Houſe of Commons*, on the meeting of the 4th, an account was preſented by Mr Corry, of the produce of the 6 per cent duties, paid by the retail importers of Britiſh goods in Ireland, for nine years paſt. He ſignified his intention of calling the attention of the Houſe to that account, after the buſineſs of the Seſſion ſhould be reſumed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, on making the motion for further ad-

adjournment, obſerved, that on the two former occaſions, he had been influenced by ſome conſiderations, which, to a certain degree, were ſtill in force. The force of theſe conſiderations, however, he was happy to inform the Houſe, was conſiderably diminiſhed. He would therefore move, that the Houſe at its riſing, ſhould adjourn till Thurſday fe'ennight, and that afterwards he would move, that it ſhould adjourn to the period to which it was orginally intended the receſs ſhould go. The other orders of the day were then read, and the Committees of Supply, and Ways and Means, deferred until Friday ſe'enight.

The ſailing of the Breſt fleet was now generally known to be with the approbation of government; and the cauſe of the ſhort adjournments alluded to by the Miniſter, the mutiny exiſting in the fleet in Bantry Bay, the particulars of which will be given in another place.

The *Houſe of Lords* met on Thurſday 14th, at half paſt three, and after ſome private buſineſs, adjourned till Tueſday next.

The *Houſe of Commons* being aſſembled in the ordinary manner. The Chancellor of the Exchequer roſe, and ſpoke to the following effect:—"Sir, I am perſuaded that the Houſe will do me the juſtice to admit, that it has been with conſiderable anxiety and concern I have moved ſeveral adjournments, productive of great inconvenience to its members. I am alſo perſuaded, that the Houſe will allow I muſt have felt extreme difficulty and concern in withholding from it the motives of theſe ſhort adjournments. Upon the ſeveral occaſions on which I propoſed them, I ſtated, that there appeared to me to be ſufficient grounds to warrant ſuch proceeding; but I hoped I ſhould not be called on to detail them. The Houſe did not call upon me for any explanation, and I am thankful to it for this mark of confidence, and for giving me credit for the motives. The Houſe, I think, has exerciſed its accuſtomed wiſdom and diſcretion in not preſſing for a diſcloſure of them. Under the circumſtances which operated upon my mind at the time, I propoſed theſe adjournments, there appeared to me to be no alternative, as I ſaw nothing to juſtify an oppoſite conduct. Theſe circumſtances are ſince ſo changed, that I have a doubt upon my mind how far they ſhould now produce ſimilar effects; but in my opinion to doubt is to decide. I ſhall be always anxious to have the advantage and aſſiſtance of the wiſdom and deliberations of this Houſe; but I am convinced that ſuch a reference will not be neceſſary upon the ſubject of theſe ſhort adjournments. The bare poſſibility, however, of ſuch an event is, in my mind, ſufficient to induce me to make the motion which I have prepared. It is, that this Houſe do, at its riſing adjourn to Tueſday next. If, by that time, as I hope, my expectations ſhall be realiſed, I mean on that day to move, according to my original intention, an adjournment to Thurſday the 28th inſtant. I now move you, Sir, that this Houſe, at its riſing, ſhall adjourn to Tueſday next."

Mr T. Jones (Denbigh)—"Sir, I am ſure no man who hears me can be more inclined to give confidence to the Right Hon. Gentleman than myſelf; but I cannot implicitely confide in him, becauſe I think it is the duty of a Member of Parliament to aſk ſomething more than mere general aſſertion, and to inquire into the cauſes of theſe frequent adjournments. This, I conceive, would have been my duty at any time; but I think it particularly ſo under the circumſtances of the preſent motion, as the Houſe was given to underſtand when it met laſt that there would be no further cauſe for another ſhort adjournment. I underſtand, the frequent repetitions of this proceeding have excited great uneaſineſs in the country. Be the motives therefore what they may, I think that a communication ſhould be made to the Repreſentative Body upon the ſubject. If an unfortunate event had not been over; but, thank God, it is over; I ſhould not, perhaps, have felt it ſo neceſſary to aſk for information; becauſe, in common with many others, I thought that event was the cauſe. There is alſo another circumſtance which I muſt beg leave to notice—by the laſt Paris papers, I find ſimilar adjournments have taken place in the Legiſlative Body of France—(*murmurs*)—I allow theſe adjournments in France are ſtated to be in conſequence of the want of calm-

calmneſs and unity. That reaſon, no doubt, cannot operate in this Houſe, as here we have calmneſs and unity. But whatever may be the force of theſe obſervations, I do think that the country would be more ſatisfied if the cauſe of theſe ſhort adjournments were known; and that by withholding ſuch information the reaſon may be ſuppoſed more alarming than it really is. I may be wrong in my opinion; but I think I have only done my duty, as a Member of Parliament, in ſtating it to the Houſe. It was only in obedience to this ſenſe of duty I have riſen; I had no other motive."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's motion was then put and agreed to, without any further obſervation.

On the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the orders for the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means, which ſtood for to-morrow, were diſcharged, and new orders moved and fixed for Wedneſday next, merely *pro forma*.

In the *Houſe of Lords*, on Tueſday January 19th, after the Earl of Portſmouth had taken the oaths and his ſeat as a Peer; and ſome buſineſs of routine had been diſpatched, Lord Pelham roſe, and moved, that their Lordſhips ſhould adjourn till Wedneſday the 3d of February.

In the *Houſe of Commons* on the ſame day, the Secretary at War brought up the eſtimates of the militia, which were laid on the table. Then Mr Addington roſe and made an addreſs to this purpoſe. When the Houſe laſt met, he expreſſed a doubt, whether or not it was then proper that it ſhould adjourn for the receſs to the period originally intended. The reaſons which upon the laſt aſſembly had induced him to move that the Houſe ſhould only adjourn to this day, might upon that occaſion have been conſidered as no longer in exiſtence, and he was happy to ſtate that they were entirely done away. He had heard, with ſurprize, that in ſome quarters it was expected that a communication would be made by him to the Houſe this day, of the nature of thoſe adjournments. Nothing that he had ever ſtated at all warranted or juſtified ſuch an expectation. What he had ſtated had no reference to what he underſtood the nature of the communication expected from him to have been. Silence upon great national concerns was far from implying an unwillingneſs to give information, if ſuch was proper. There might be circumſtances, which although known to every one, could not with propriety become the ſubject of public ſtatement or diſcuſſion in that Houſe. At preſent it would be improper for him to make ſuch a communication, unleſs an over-ruling ſenſe of duty impoſed the neceſſity upon him. He had thus briefly ſtated the motives for his conduct, in a way which he hoped was generally underſtood. It did not appear to him, that there was any ground for parliamentary interference, and although he wiſhed the adjournment to extend for a few days longer than he had propoſed upon the laſt occaſion, when he had the honour of addreſſing the Houſe, he truſted that no inconvenience would be experienced. He concluded by moving, " That the Houſe, at its riſing, ſhould adjourn to Tueſday the 2d of February next."

Mr Elliot inſiſted on knowing the cauſes of the adjournments. Lord Hawkeſbury replied. Dr Lawrence joined Mr Elliot in his queries relative to the cauſes, and moved that the Houſe ſhould adjourn only till Tueſday. Attorney General replied.

Mr Addington then moved, that there ſhould be laid before the Houſe the following accounts:—An account ſhowing how the money for the ſervice of 1801 had been diſpoſed of:—An account of the diſtribution of five millions five hundred thouſand pounds granted for the army extraordinaries of laſt year. An account of the diſtribution of money granted by an act of laſt ſeſſion for raiſing two millions. An eſtimate of the debt of the navy up to the 31ſt of December 1801; and an account of the bounties paid on corn, meal, flour, and rice, imported to the 5th January 1802.

Adjourned to the 2d February.

MONTHLY REGISTER.

GAZETTE INTELLIGENCE.

Downing-ſtreet, Jan. 2. 1802.

A diſpatch from the Reſident of the Honourable Eaſt India Company at Amboyna, dated 6th July 1801, of which the following is an extract, has been received by the Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company, and communicated to the Right Hon. Lord Hobart, one of his Majeſty's principal Secretaries of State.

I do myſelf the honour to congratulate your Lordſhip, in council, on the important event of the ſurrender of Ternate to the Britiſh arms, which was delivered over, by capitulation, to Colonel Burr on the 21ſt ultimo.

The Dutch Governor made a moſt reſolute reſiſtance, having defended the place with uncommon firmneſs for fifty-two days, though, I am ſorry to add, at the expence of the poor inhabitants, who periſhed, by famine, from ten to twenty a day, from our ſtrong blockade by ſea and land.

During this excellent diſpoſition of our military and marine forces, the latter under the command of that gallant officer Captain Hages, the annual ſupplies for the enemy were intercepted through his vigilance, which certainly contributed, in a high degree, to the ultimate ſucceſs of the enterpriſe. The value of the captured property taken by the ſquadron amounts to a lack and fifty thouſand dollars.

The difficulties the Honourable Company's forces by ſea and land had to encounter on this arduous ſervice, and the intrepidity and ſpirit which they manifeſted during a ſiege of nearly two months, do them infinite credit, and have ſeldom or ever been exceeded in this part of the globe. The accounts we have received of the ſtrength of Fort Orange, and its numerous detached batteries, proved exceedingly erroneous, in ſo much, that Colonel Burr declares the place to be extremely ſtrong by nature, and moſt excellently improved by art, with a powerful garriſon, and ſo well provided with arms and ammunition, as throw difficulties in the way of our force, which were as diſtreſſing as unexpected; they, however, perſevered and kept their ground with ſo much bravery and reſolution as to compel the enemy to ſurrender their different ſtrong holds, one after the other, until the principal fort and town were ſo completely blockaded both by ſea and land, and ſo reduced by famine, as to make them ſue for conditions, which, I underſtand, are very ſatisfactory.

I am happy to inform your Lordſhip, in council, that, arduous as this ſervice was, and much as our forces were expoſed to the repeated attacks of the enemy, the loſs of killed and wounded of the troops does not amount to above nine or ten; that of the marine does not exceed twelve ſeamen.

Admiralty-Office, Jan. 23.

Copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Montagu, commanding officer of his Majeſty's ſhips and veſſels at Jamaica, to Evan Nepean, Eſq. dated Port Royal Harbour, the 19th of November 1801.

SIR,

Incloſed I have the honour to tranſmit two letters from Francis J. Nott, Eſq; commander of the Curacoa, giving an acount of an action between his Majeſty's armed tender Pickle and a Spaniſh ſchooner. I have the honour to be, &c.

ROBERT MONTAGU.

His Majeſty's ſloop Curacoa, Curacoa harbour, Oct. 21. 1801.

SIR,

I have the honour to incloſe a copy of a letter received from Mr Robert Haver, Maſter's Mate of his Majeſty's ſloop Curacoa, under my command, and ſerving on board his Majeſty's armed tender Pickle, attached to that ſhip.

I beg leave to inform you that the Pickle has been refitted and ſailed upon

upon a cruize I have the honour to be, &c.

FRANCIS JOHN NOTT.

Rear-Admiral Montagu.

His Majeſty's armed tender Pickle, Curacoa harbour, Oct. 13. 1801.

SIR,

I beg leave to inform you, that on the 25th ultimo, eleven A. M. Iſle of Aſh (St Domingo) bearing N. W. diſtance five or ſix miles, being on the ſtarboard tack, a ſtrange ſail was diſcovered under the land bearing down upon us with an Engliſh enſign flying.

When within piſtol-ſhot of the Pickle, the enemy hoiſted Spaniſh colours, and commenced an action which continued with a briſk fire from both ſides for an hour and a quarter, when they attempted to board, but without effect; finding themſelves foiled in this, they hauled their wind, and made ſail from us: We wore and ſtood after them, but, to my great mortification, they were ſo much our ſuperior in ſailing, that, after a chace of one hour and a half, I found it fruitleſs to continue it.

It is with extreme regret that I am to inform you Lieutenant Greenſhields was killed forty minutes after the commencement of the action, having received a muſket ball through his body.

Our ſails and rigging have ſuffered a good deal; and I am ſorry to add, that Mr Pearce, midſhipman, with ſeven men and myſelf were wounded.

From the great ſuperiority of the enemy's force to ours, the Pickle only having thirty-five men (including officers and boys, and of theſe three were rendered unſerviceable through ſickneſs), I hope the exertions uſed during the action, as well as thoſe made to come up with the enemy, will meet your approbation.

The enemy was a large ſchooner-rigged veſſel, mounting two twelve and two nine-pounders, and manned with about ſeventy men; and I imagine muſt have been a French or Spaniſh privateer. I have the honour to be, &c.

ROBERT HAYER.

Francis John E. Nott, Eſq. Commander of his Majeſty's ſloop Curacoa.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The different nations of Europe, after a long and deſtructive war, mutually exhauſted of their animoſities, have now ſunk into peace. The final ratification of the treaty has been looked for during this whole month with daily expectation. France and Britain, ſince the ceſſation of hoſtilities, preſent few events worthy of being detailed. The ſilent arts of peace leave few memorials for the pen of the hiſtorian. The movements of Princes, within the circles of their own Courts, are ſcarcely worthy of notice, as they generally indicate little more than their perſonal exiſtence, unconnected with any material change in the affairs of their reſpective kingdoms.

The ſettlement of the articles of the treaty, according to the beſt information, has undoubtedly been delayed by the cold intereſt that moſt of the allied nations, on the ſide of the forementioned countries, feel in the arrangement. The German Empire, bleeding from the fate of war, and diſtracted by the different views of its members, is likely to ſubmit, rather than cordially accede, to the deciſion of the ruling plenipotentiaries. Her dominions in Italy are irretrievably loſt; many of her domeſtic territories alienated by conqueſt, and laid at the diſpoſal of the French; and ſome of her component circles completely annihilated. Spain, entirely under the direction of her Northern ally, will reluctantly acknowledge, in the crown of Porſenna, and the elevation of a Prince of the Blood to the throne of Tuſcany, an equivalent for the impreſs of her navy, the deſtruction of her commerce, the infringement of her independence by the fatal aſcendancy of French councils and principles. Holland, devoted to the management of the Chief Conſul, undoubtedly views with regret the extinction of her fleets, her colonies, and trade. The ſettlement at the Cape and the Iſland of Ceylon, no longer Batavian, are weighty poiſes in the ſcales of negociation.

The great Empire of Ruſſia, and the independent States of the North, appear to produce nothing at this moment

ment worthy of remark. The Emperor Alexander mounted the bloody throne of the Czars on the 15th day of September 1801. The coronation addreſs of the Metropolitan Platon, Primate of all Ruſſia, has been tranſlated into our language, and though too long to be inſerted here, contains ſeveral curious features of a people receiving, with humility, an abſolute monarch. "Moſt beloved Sovereign! this crown on thy head is to us glory, but to thee labour: this ſceptre is to us reſt, but to thee watchfulneſs; this ſphere, the enſign of dominion, is to us ſafety, but to thee care; this purple is to us the reward of victory, but to thee the toil of the battle; all theſe enſigns of royalty bring to us comfort, but to thee a burden; a burden in truth and a toil." It explains the duty of a ſovereign to his people, in the trembling language of a ſlave to his maſter. The new emperor has reſtored the arrangements of his grandmother's government, and promiſes to be worthy of the eſteem and obedience of his ſubjects.

TURKEY alone is the only inferior European power that has reaſon to rejoice in her fortune of the war. Defended and ſaved by the braveſt of the Britiſh armies, the undiſciplined troops of the Ottomans have again got poſſeſſion of Egypt, which they have not abilities to retain. Their mode of attack is ludicrouſly deſcribed in a letter from a Scottiſh officer, of the 30th regiment, to his friend in Aberdeen.

Extract of a letter from an Officer of the 30th regiment, in Egypt, to his friend in Aberdeen.

"In my laſt I informed you of my being ordered to march with about 5000 men, and join the Turkiſh army. We had nothing to do in the fighting way. The French had been ſo ſickened with the doſe they received on the 21ſt, that afterwards they ſhewed no diſpoſition to try another. Indeed, at the place called Rachmania, where they had upwards of 3000 men, and conſiderable fortifications, they made a ſhew of ſtanding; but they afterwards thought better of it, and marched off in the night. We had about 15,000 of the Turkiſh army with us, under the command of the Captain Pacha. The Turks having claimed the honour of attack, I had an opportuni- of ſeeing the Turkiſh mode of fighting. Little, indeed, had the great conqueror of Italy, and his *invincible* army, to boaſt of having beaten ſuch poltroons. Such confuſion as was exhibited that day never appeared at Drogheda fair. Some advancing here, crowds retreating there. In one place you ſee a multitude with ſhovels and pick-axes, throwing up a pitiful breaſt-work, about one or two feet high, behind which they ſquat down. To the left you ſee thouſands of ſmall white and coloured ſtandards, around which you obſerve multitudes of men, apparently poſſeſſed by the devil, ſcreaming and halloing, and running towards the enemy, till the whiſtle of a ball ſeems, like magic, to bring them to their recollection; the next diſcharge is a certain order for a retreat. In a word, it is impoſſible for me, or any one, to give you an adequate idea of a Turkiſh battle. Only let me mention that every man goes into action when he pleaſes, ſtays as long as he pleaſes, and advances as far as he pleaſes. Depend upon it, the above deſcription is exactly what fell under my own obſervation, and is ſo far from being exaggerated, that I really feel it impoſſible to do juſtice to their character. The French marched off in the night for Cairo. We followed them.—Cairo ſurrendered. We returned to Alexandria; the French having rendered their poſition on our ſide impracticable by ſtorm, General Coote with about 5000 men went to the other ſide. Our operations, till the ſurrender, you will be informed of by the public diſpatches. Our regiment were fortunate enough, by their conduct on the 17th Auguſt, to acquire, in an affair in which they alone were engaged, the higheſt credit. Two hours before day-break, the 50th, and our regiment, ſupported by the 92d, advanced towards the French lines to ſtorm two redoubts, which, from their advanced poſition, retarded our operations. The French, after firing a few ſhots, retreated, and we got poſſeſſion of the works without loſing a man. The company to which I was attached, with two other companies, amounting in all to about 160 men, were detached to take poſſeſſion

of a ſmall eminence in front of the redoubts we had taken. About 11 o'clock the enemy ſent down a body of 600 men to drive us from this poſition, and retake the redoubt. Our three companies, for about 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour, kept up an extremely hot fire of muſquetry. The officer who commanded, Colonel Spencer of the 40th regiment, ordered us to advance;—we charged. The French immediately gave way. We took a good many priſoners, and killed a great number. It was allowed by the army that a more daſhing thing has not been done for a long time. Conſidering the few minutes the muſquetry laſted, we loſt a great number of men. We had an officer wounded, and 28 rank and file killed and wounded. From our engaging ſo very cloſe (between 20 and 30 paces), our wounded were more ſeverely hurt than uſual, and we are afraid we ſhall receive but a bad account of our poor fellows."

To finiſh this lively picture of cowardice, with its relation treachery: The Britiſh army had not entirely evacuated this devoted country, when in ſpite of oaths and promiſes to the contrary, the Turkiſh character developed its unqualified baſeneſs. In the following manner the Ottoman ſubdues kingdoms.

Ever ſince the commencement of the war, the Porte had ſecretly reſolved to change the government of the Beys in Egypt, and in order the more perfectly to conceal this project, all the demonſtrations of the Grand Vizir and the Captain Pacha tended only to perſuade them that they were to be ſpeedily re-eſtabliſhed.

Upon the evacuation of Egypt, ſeven of theſe Beys were invited to repair to Alexandria, to concert meaſures for their approaching re-eſtabliſhment. They haſtened to obey this invitation. They were received with marks of the higheſt diſtinction; but the Captain Pacha ſoon intimated to them, that it was the wiſh of the Porte that they ſhould for ever renounce all claims to the government of Egypt. He declared to them at the ſame time, that they were to be removed to Conſtantinople, giving them the ſtrongeſt aſſurances, that not only their lives ſhould be reſpected, but alſo that their condition ſhould be equally ſplendid; the intention of the Porte being either to continue them in the poſſeſſion of their properties, or give them equivalents, and even to advance them to honourable offices.

The Captain Pacha had cauſed aſſurances to the ſame effect to be given to the General in Chief Hutchinſon.

The Grand Vizir being informed, by an expreſs from the Ottoman Admiral, that he had made himſelf maſter of the perſons of ſeven of theſe Beys, on his part, arreſted ſuch of them as were within his reach; and his meaſures were ſo well concerted, that, in leſs than one hour, theſe ancient rulers of Egypt were in his power. Two of the number, Mehemet Elfy Bey, and Aboudiub Bey, effected their eſcape. The former was abſent in Upper Egypt, whither he had been ſent to raiſe contributions. His recal under ſome pretext excited his ſuſpicions, and, far from approaching Cairo, he gained the interior of the country. Aboudiub, encamped at a village near Dzize, being informed of the diſgrace of his colleagues, found ſafety in flight; but it was not known whither he had directed his ſteps. A number of other Beys attempted to make off, but corps of troops, poſted at different diſtances, ſeized them. Other detachments went in purſuit of the Mamelukes of the fugitive Beys, and not a day paſſed, but ſome of them were brought in. Many periſhed in reſiſting.

The Grand Vizir held out the ſame expreſſions to the Beys as the Captain Pacha.

This conduct excited the ſtrongeſt remonſtrances on the part of the General in Chief Hutchinſon; and a new circumſtance engaged him to take up the cauſe of the Beys ſtill more warmly.

The Captain Pacha had ſucceeded in engaging thoſe whom he had in his power to go on board one of his frigates. Different boats were conveying them, when, on the paſſage, the Beys began to repent of their extreme confidence, and to dread ſome violence as ſoon as they ſhould be on board the frigate, and they wiſhed to perſuade the officers that were conducting them, to bring them back to the land. The officers, pleading the orders of the Admiral, refuſed to yield to their deſire. Upon this, the Beys took up

arms

arms, in order to compel them; a ſtruggle enſued, in which four of the Beys were killed, and three wounded. A number of the men belonging to the boats ſhared the ſame fate.

Immediately on receiving information of this cataſtrophe, the General in Chief Hutchinſon ordered the troops under arms; and addreſſing the Grand Vizir, and the Captain Pacha in terms of the moſt ſevere reproach, demanded of the latter, with threats, the perſons of the three wounded Beys. The Ottoman Admiral, attributing the miſfortune that had befallen the Beys ſolely to their own fault, and to their groundleſs ſuſpicions, juſtified the meaſures taken to ſecure their perſons, relying on the orders which the Porte had addreſſed to him, as well as to the Grand Vizir, after having obtained a certainty that the Court of London did not wiſh to interfere in changes of this kind; and that its intention in ſending troops to Egypt was only to aſſiſt in retaking this province, leaving the Porte perfectly at liberty to eſtabliſh there whatever Government it may think fit.

Subſequent to all theſe tranſactions, information has been received, that the Grand Vizir, having aſſembled at his houſe all the Beys within his power, and having even ſucceeded in determining Mehemet Elfy Bey to return to Cairo, was able to convince them of the neceſſity of ſubmitting to the will of the Porte. He renewed to them the ſame promiſes, and the ſame aſſurances for the ſafety of their lives and properties, and for preſerving to them a brilliant rank in the Ottoman Empire; and even (in order to give his word a more ſacred and impoſing character) ſwore on the Koran, which he cauſed to be brought before him, that he would faithfully obſerve it, and went through this ceremony with the greateſt ſolemnity. Theſe proceedings of the Grand Vizir produced the happieſt effect. The Beys conſented to renounce Egypt, and to repair to Conſtantinople. They even ſanctioned their ſubmiſſion by an addreſs to the Grand Signior, which they have ſigned, and diſpatched to Conſtantinople by one of their officers.

While ſuch are the hell-hounds that prey in the ancient nurſery of the arts and ſciences; Paſwan Oglou has eſtabliſhed himſelf in the North, and holds the court and armies of Conſtantinople at defiance. Of late he has coined Turkiſh money at Widdin, and endeavoured to penetrate into Wallachia.

The kingdom of France at preſent, affords a curious view of the unconſtant tide of human affairs. Bonaparte elected by the *pas de charge*,† after driving the repreſentatives of the nation from their ſeats, has eſtabliſhed himſelf with all the abſolute powers of a ſovereign. His councils conſiſt of men choſen by himſelf, under the title of Committees of the Legiſlative Body. He diſgraces and promotes the officers of every department of the ſtate at his pleaſure. His conduct is dark, ſuſpicious and arbitrary; his levee approaches the magnificence of royalty; many of the ancient cuſtoms of the court have been imperceptibly revived ſince his acceſſion to the conſulate; the fury of former opinions is quite ſubſided; and the government itſelf will probably ſoon loſe the name, as it has already loſt the nature of a republic. The accounts of this month are full of the Pariſian manners, which the peace now allows us to compare with thoſe of the nations around. The ſame levity, the ſame laxity of character ſtill continue. The chaos of ſuperſtition and infidelity, brightly illuminated with the national vivacity, preſents a very diſagreeable view to the eye of an intelligent ſpectator. Scarcely can the duſt have yet covered the blood, which flowed in torrents from the indiſcriminate maſſacre of all that was excellent in the French nation. The high minded founders of the Republic. The Rolands, the Mirabeaus, the Briſſots, the Lavoiſiers, have been all ſmothered in their duſky graves to make way for Bonaparte!

The Conſul it appears, finds conſiderable difficulty to manage, with ſucceſs, the generals of the armies. Moreau, Berthier, Maſſena, Bernadotte and Macdonald, have triumphed in many fields, and are entitled to a ſhare in the government, from a right ſimilar to his own. His policy is founded on retaining confidents attached to different parties, by which he is enabled to detect any germ of conſpiracy.

The ſmall remains of the Legiſlative Bodies, that even after the ſelections of the Conſul, retain the ſpirit of in-

† Charging ſtep of the grenadiers.

dependence, were lately employed on a code of civil law. The debates on the different articles became warm and violent. Bonaparte, by a ſhort and ſharp meſſage, put an end to them immediately, by withdrawing the code.

It is with pain (ſaid he) that the government finds itſelf obliged to defer to another period, laws expected by the nation with ſo much intereſt; but it is convinced, that the time is not yet arrived, when that calmneſs and unity of intention that are ſo neceſſary, will be introduced into theſe great diſcuſſions.

Bonaparte ſet out for Lyons (lately the ſcene of revolutionary anarchy) about the 7th of the month. The preparations for his arrival, the continual balls and fetes during his ſtay, were inferior to none under the old government. The ſervile flattery and groſs adulation, with which he was received in every place, were unequalled by thoſe offered to the vain Louis XIV, in the plenitude of his power and ſucceſſes. The time of his return to the capital, has not been aſcertained.

Amidſt the pretenſions of the different powers to indemnification at Amiens, no mention has been made of the King of Sardinia, who probably has not abilities to enſure the validity of his claims.

Melancholy accounts have been received of the ſtate of the French Weſt India iſlands. The principles of freedom were induſtriouſly diſſeminated among the negroes by Victor Hughes and Santhonax. The conſequences have been, that the blacks have made a general inſurrection; Touſſaint L'Ouverture a black chief, has organized an independant republic, the leading feature of which is to exterminate all the whites. This man, who diſcovers great abilities, has been oppoſed by a party under one Farril, which he has detected and annihilated. A maſſacre of the whites was begun in St Domingo, the ſeat of the Negro Republic, but was fortunately prevented from becoming univerſal. The moſt horrid cruelties are perpetrated by theſe children of misfortune, from whoſe minds miſery and ſlavery have exterminated every feeling of mercy and humanity. Bonaparte, whoſe rage for eſtabliſhing new republics has gradually cooled, gave orders for an expedition to recover theſe iſlands to the mother country. A fleet therefore ſailed from Breſt, and other ports of the kingdom, ſoon after the ſigning of the preliminaries of the peace. This was done with the permiſſion of the Britiſh miniſtery; but, as that circumſtance was not known to the nation, nor even to ſeveral members of the Commons, it became a cauſe of alarm and diſcuſſion in parliament.

In India, the dominions of the Company have been diſturbed by a rebellion in the Carnatic, the particulars of which may be learned from an extract of a letter written by an officer of the 73d regiment:

"Camp in the ceded diſtricts, about 30 miles N. E. of Gurrumcondah, May 27. 1801.

"We have been employed theſe ſix months paſt in taking poſſeſſion of the very extenſive country ceded to the Company by his Highneſs the Nizam, and when we thought every thing was done, and that we were to go into quarters, and reſt from our labours, a number of refractory Polygars ſtarted up, and for three months paſt we have not known more than one day's ceſſation from marching at a time. It is now ſaid we have done, but the people in this country, called Polygars, are ſo deceitful and treacherous, that there cannot be any certain concluſion drawn from appearances. In fact I have ſeen ſo much of it, that I ſhall expect little or no reſt till we get out of the country altogether.

"In the courſe of our late excurſions, the detachment of cavalry, performed one of the longeſt marches ever known to have been done in India by Europeans: We made a march of 13 miles on the morning of the 9th ultimo over the ſandy bed of a river, being the only road; the afternoon of the ſame day, we marched again and continued marching the whole of that night, and till about two o'clock the following morning, when we arrived at our object, being diſtant 62 miles from the firſt ground we moved from, and 60 from the laſt, which was performed in 29 hours altogether. The time, you will ſay, was ſufficient, but you muſt know that we had to move with heavy ſcaling ladders, carried on Laſcars' ſhoulders, and guns, over a road, the greater

greater part of which wheeled carriages had never before gone. The diſtreſs in the courſe of the night I cannot deſcribe to you. The want of water was one of the greateſt, which the darkneſs of the night, and the natural ſcarcity in that part of the country, prevented our finding. The Laſcars dropping dead from under the ladders, the Europeans and Sepoys fainting, and left apparently dead on the road, were ſights that made me ſhudder, although pretty well accuſtomed to ſcenes of the kind within theſe laſt two or three years. Much to our ſatisfaction, the whole of the Europeans recovered and joined us ſoon after we got to the place; and the only loſs in deaths was among the Laſcars and Sepoys. The great object was effected, which was the ſurpriſing and taking priſoner a Muſſelman, by name Mahomet Cawn, who had joined with others in ſhaking off their allegiance to the Company. On the appearance of the cavalry, he made ſome ſhew of reſiſtance, but underſtanding the infantry were cloſe behind, he ſurrendered.

"Another night march we had of twenty miles, in which our ſucceſs was equal to the other, but the people defending themſelves, cauſed great ſlaughter among them, with the loſs on our ſide of a few natives and horſes.

"An unfortunate, and I may ſay, melancholy occurrence, has happened to the ſouthward, near Pallamcottah, at a place called Pandalamcourchy, and as I am certain you will not hear of it from any public communication, I will detail the heads of it.

"About ſix months ago a Polygar Rajah, confined in the fort of Pallamcattah, contrived to make his eſcape, and the country people, according to a preconcerted plan, took up arms in his defence.

"A Major M'Cauly, of the company's ſervice, who commanded in that ſtation, marched againſt them with what any perſon would have thought a ſufficient force to quell, or oblige them to take to the jungle; much, however, to the aſtoniſhment of every one, they not only ſtood their ground, but compelled the Major to retreat, after loſing ſome hundreds of Sepoys killed and wounded. On this intelligence reaching Government, they ordered the light company and one battalion company of the 74th, to reinforce the Major, who was now ſurrounded in his fort. This handful of Europeans ſtruck ſuch a panic into the deluded natives, that they immediately fled to the fort of Pandalamcourchy, which had coſt the lives of a number of officers in taking, not twelve months before, and, ſtrange to tell, it had not been properly diſmantled ſince. The Major being reinforced by the Europeans, immediately advanced to the place, and after a few hours employed to make a breach, the ſtorm commenced, led by Captain Campbell, of the 74th. The enemy defended themſelves deſperately, the breach was found impracticable, and after a hard ſtruggle, our troops were obliged to retire with great loſs, 4 officers and 50 Europeans killed, 15 officers, and nearly the remainder of the Europeans wounded, beſides Sepoys killed and wounded in great numbers. Capt. Campbell was wounded, and had the misfortune to ſee his brother (a fine young man, and Lieutenant in his brother's company) killed by his ſide, and he is ſince dead of his wounds. I forgot to mention, that previous to the attack of the fort, a large body of the enemy, who had remained on the outſide, and attempted to ſtop the progreſs of our troops, were charged by the body guard of cavalry, led on by a Lieut. Grant, who commanded them; they ſtood very ſteady, and killed and wounded a number of the troopers before they were routed, which they were at laſt, and a number of them cut up in conſequence.

"Lieut. Grant was ſpeared through the lungs, and a ſubidar of cavalry, who ſaved Lord Cornwallis' life before Seringapatam, was killed. Our laſt accounts mention the arrival of the 77th regiment to the detachment, and Col. Agnew, the Company's Adjutant-General on this coaſt, is on his way to take the command of the troops, when, I make no doubt, the too much elated natives will ſuffer for their preſumption. There certainly muſt have been ſome great miſmanagement in the above buſineſs, and one thing is certain, that on the troops reaching the breach, and finding it was too high to get up to without ladders, there was none to be found, and the gallant fellows attempted to enter it on each o-

others'

thers' ſhoulders, till the whole were either killed or wounded."

Further Particulars.

June 22.

In my laſt letter I detailed the particulars of the defeat of our troops at Pandalamcourchy, and as it has proved one of the moſt gallant, though fatal, (in the loſs of officers and men), I ſhall commence with an account of what has happened ſince at that place. I believe I told you that Lieut. Col. Agnew, Adjutant General on the coaſt, was ordered to proceed and take command of the troops on that ſervice, which he accordingly did, and being reinforced by his Majeſty's 77th regiment, two companies of artillery, ſome battalions of Sepoys, &c. he proceeded to attack the place a ſecond time. Having erected his batteries, which mounted two eighteen, two twelve, and four howitzers, he battered in breach for a whole day, and determined not to fail from the ſame cauſe as had occaſioned the failure before (the impracticability of a breach); he waited for the next day to attack, when he again opened his guns on the breach till twelve o'clock; he then aſſaulted the place in the following order: The two flank companies of the 77th led, then the remains of the two unfortunate companies of the 74th, and the three battalion companies of the 77th, followed by all the flank companies of the Sepoy corps then preſent. They advanced to the breach in ordinary time, under a very heavy fire on both their flanks. On reaching the breach, the enemy were ſo numerous, and armed with ſpears 20 feet and upwards in length, that they found it neceſſary to draw up in line and commence a regular fire of muſketry, which was kept up ſo well for 15 minutes, that the enemy at laſt broke, and the party entered, after loſing three Lieutenants killed, ſeveral officers wounded, and the number of men killed and wounded about 180. A great ſlaughter enſued; but a large body of the enemy eſcaped out on the oppoſite ſide of the fort, only to be cut up by the cavalry, which were ſtationed round for that purpoſe. I am ſorry to inform you that one of the Lieutenants who fell on this occaſion was nephew to General Harris, his name Gilchriſt, a very fine young man, and was the only officer who eſcaped being killed or wounded on the former buſineſs. The troubles have not ended with that.

A powerful Polygar, taking courage from the temporary defeat we firſt ſuſtained, has taken up arms. Colonel Agnew is now employed againſt him; and we hear, that in one ſmart ſkirmiſh he has loſt a Major Grey and ſome other officers of the Company's ſervice. Further information ſays, that he finds the enemy ſo numerous as to demand a reinforcement, and that the communication between that detachment and Madras is cut off.

You muſt underſtand that the Polygars are a race of people who inhabit the jungles and hill parts of India; they are braver than the generality of Indians, and cannot be ſaid ever to have been conquered.

LONDON.

All the weſtern kingdoms of Europe have ſuffered extremely from the high winds, ſtorms, and inundations, during this laſt month. At Paris, the inundations roſe in an alarming degree above the Seine; in Holland, infinite damage has enſued, and much of the country laid under water; at Liverpool in particular, and to a certain extent over the whole iſland, the houſes were ſhaken by the violence of the ſtorm, and the ſhores were covered with wrecks.

On the 18th January, the day in which her Majeſty entered her 55th year, the uſual ſplendour and demonſtrations of joy were obſerved. The different branches of the Royal Family waited on the Queen to pay their reſpects. The ball in the evening was attended by the foreign ambaſſadors and many of the nobility of both ſexes; but it broke up very early, and there was only one country dance.

About the beginning of the month, a detachment of Admiral Mitchell's fleet, then lying in Bantry Bay, was ordered to ſail with Admiral Campbell under ſealed orders. A ſerious mutiny took place on board the Temeraire, the Majeſtic and Formidable, ſome of the crews of theſe ſhips having ſuppoſed that they were ordered to the Weſt Indies. A Court Martial was held on board the Gladiator, lying at Portſmouth, in which John Mayfield, James Cheſter-

Cheſterman, John Ward, William Hillier, James Collins, and John Fitzgerald, received ſentence of death, and were executed on board their reſpective ſhips on the 15th January.

The Court Martial re-aſſembled on the 14th, and John Allen, Edward Taylor, George Comayne, George Dixon, James Riley, and Thomas Simmonds, were condemned for charges ſimilar to thoſe of their ſhip-mates.

The juſtice of the Britiſh empire was not formed to triumph only over the humble. Joſeph Wall, a gentleman of Iriſh extraction, allied by marriage to ſome of the firſt nobility of the kingdom, was governor of Goree in the year 1782. A party of ſoldiers having come to the governor's houſe, without arms or any ſymptoms of real mutiny, to complain of their ſcanty allowance of proviſions, Governor Wall diſmiſſed them with threatening language, and in the evening; having called the roll before the uſual time, he ſingled out a Sergeant Armſtrong, bound him to the carriage of a gun, and inflicted a puniſhment of 800 laſhes. This was not performed with the uſual inſtrument, but with a cord of a particular quality different from the common kind. The puniſhment was inflicted by negroes, ſubjects of the native princes, and the language of their orders was moſt brutal and inhuman. The man died in a few days after, his body being quite torn with the ſcourge. Wall was recalled from his office; and, conſcious of his guilt, fled from the hands of juſtice. After an interval of 20 years, imagining that all the evidence of his crime was dead, and anxious to enjoy ſome of the rights of a Britiſh ſubject, he ventured to expoſe himſelf to a trial. He was arraigned in the uſual form at the Old Bailey, before the Lord Chief Baron and the other judges of that court. Evidence was produced by the Crown of the informality of the ſentence, of its injuſtice both in nature and execution. The priſoner failed in his proofs that a mutiny exiſted, and that a court martial had been held. The witneſſes produced by him, gave a diſcordant kind of evidence, placed in no advantageous view by the clear evidence for the proſecutor. He was found guilty by the jury, and received ſentence accordingly. The caſe appears to have been re-examined by the Lords of the Privy Council, who, ſenſible of the juſtice of the verdict, would not join in petitioning the Sovereign for mercy.

A few days of reſpite were ſucceſſively granted. Wall was executed at the uſual place on the 28th of January. In private life, he was mild and agreeable; in public, arrogant, harſh, and cruel, even to his officers. The populace attended this unfortunate ſufferer at the laſt with ungenerous ſhouts of exultation; a proof of the odium in which they ſtill held his conduct, at the cloſe of a ſcene where pity generally triumphs over reſentment.

On Friday 22d, a court martial was held on board the Gladiator at Portſmouth, for the trial of Captain Sir Edward Hamilton of the Trent frigate, on charges of tyranny and oppreſſion.

The facts proven were, that he had ordered the ſhip's gunner, an elderly man with a family, to be *ſeized up* for an hour and a half, in the late extreme froſt; that the gunner appeared to have done his duty completely, but was nevertheleſs puniſhed in this manner ſo long that he fainted. Sir Edward pleaded his former ſervices in extenuation, and obſerved, it is ſaid, that in conſequence of a wound in his head, received when cutting the Hermione out of a Spaniſh port, he was at periods nearly in a ſtate of mental derangement. This brave naval officer being found guilty, was ſentenced to be diſmiſſed the ſervice. He had been in the navy ſince ſeven years of age.

SCOTLAND.

Since the celebration of her Majeſty's birth day the Theatre has been pretty well attended on the Saturdays, which ſeems now to be the *only* faſhionable night in the week; but great complaints of the *company* are almoſt daily made in very angry tones, apparently not without cauſe. The WEST INDIAN, at deſire of ſome Weſt India Gentlemen, was lately brought forward to the moſt crowded houſe we have had this ſeaſon. The old expedient of making intereſt for *beſpeaks*, has been reſorted to, her Grace of Buccleugh having had a play performed (as the bills of the day bore) by her *deſire*, on Monday laſt; and, no doubt, the example will be followed. If we miſtake not, a *good company* would beſpeak a ſtill more advantageous in-

tereſt, that of the town at large; but our treatment *this* ſeaſon has by no means been a grateful return for our ſervices during the *laſt*.

Inverneſs, Jan. 12.

Yeſterday Major Macdonald, with the laſt diviſion of Lord Macdonald's regiment of the Iſles, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel M. Macaliſter, arrived at Fort George, after performing a march of upwards of 500 miles from Liverpool, during which time the inclemency of the weather was ſuch as would have impeded almoſt any other corps, except Highlanders. For three ſucceſſive marches, from Montroſe to Aberdeen, they had to cut their way through froſt and ſnow, which they performed with the greateſt alacrity, working with their ſpades and ſhovels, to the tune of their Gaelic ſongs, and not a ſingle man of thoſe that marched from Liverpool was left behind.—From Aberdeen to Banff, the drift and ſnow was often ſuch as to prevent their ſeeing one another, and obliged them, for ſecurity's ſake, to link each other by the arm, from front to rear. Notwithſtanding all this, the whole, upon their arrival, appeared neat and clean, in good health and ſpirits, and ſeemingly not in the leaſt fatigued. Although their route from Carliſle was diſcretionary, yet they ſtill continued their march (the uſual halting days excepted), until their arrival at the Fort.—It may not perhaps be unworthy of remark, that Fort George ſhould now be garriſoned by the very people, to overawe whom it was originally built, a circumſtance ſomewhat curious to think, that, in the ſpace of about forty-five years, ſuch a change in human affairs ſhould have taken place, an event, however, equally honourable to that Government who affected it, and to the Highlanders themſelves, for their preſent loyalty and attachment to the beſt of Kings."

St Andrew's, Jan. 21.

Mr John Honey, the celebrated hero of the ſhore, gave this day another affecting diſplay of his intrepidity in ſaving the lives of his fellow creatures.

A herring boat from the Tay, with four hands, was forced by ſtreſs of weather to repair to this harbour for ſhelter, but before reaching it, from loſs of oars and the fury of the ſtorm, ſhe was driven aſhore on the beach, at a ſmall diſtance from the harbour. As ſhe approached the land, the force of the ſea threw one of the crew overboard, who, being a bad ſwimmer, and the breakers being violent, was again overwhelmed, and juſt periſhing. At this moment Mr Honey, and his gallant coadjutor, John Wemyſs, mate of the ſmack Peggy, of Anſtruther, mutually ſupporting each other againſt the force of the waves, ruſhed into the ſea, though riſing at times to their own height, and with conſiderable difficulty, under Providence, reſcued the poor fiſherman from deſtruction. After bringing him aſhore, Mr Honey carried him almoſt lifeleſs on his back, to a neighbouring houſe, where, by proper care, he ſoon recovered.

High Court of Justiciary.

Monday, January 4.

James Begg for ſhoplifting, convicted by the Jury, and ſentenced to an arbitrary puniſhment; fortnight's impriſonment.

Henry Bowerman for challenging the Earl of Lauderdale. As the priſoner, who was then in England, ſent an affidavit of his ill health, the trial was deferred till February.

George Pyper, ſervant to Robert Moir inn-keeper in Muſſelburgh, for ſtriking on the head David White chaiſe-driver, with a pair of tongs, in conſequence of which blow he died in the ſpace of 12 days. Found guilty of culpable homicide, but recommended to mercy. Three year's baniſhment.

Thomas Davies, late of the glaſs-houſe, Leith, for ſtealing rings, ſome plate, and other valuables, from the houſe of J. Boyd: libel reſtricted to an arbitrary puniſhment. *Guilty*. Fourteen year's tranſportation.

Andrew Lawrie, letter-carrier, for abſtracting money from letters ſent by poſt. Condemned to be executed on 10th February.

Haddington, Jan. 29.

Beſt Wheat, 38s. Barley, 26s. Oats, 15s. 9d. Peaſe, 17s. Beans, 18s. 6d. per boll.

Edinburgh, Jan. 26. Oat-meal, 1s. 2d. Bear-meal, 1s. Peaſe-meal, 10d.

*** The Editors of the Scots Magazine regret, that from the extent and number of their Literary Articles, they have been neceſſitated to poſtpone till next number, a variety of liſts and new publications, deaths, marriages, &c. as well as various articles of inferior importance.